THOMAS (FATHER)

DRAWER 1 FATHER - THOMAS LINCOLN

TO JOHN WEST OFFICE

Thomas Lincoln Family

Thomas Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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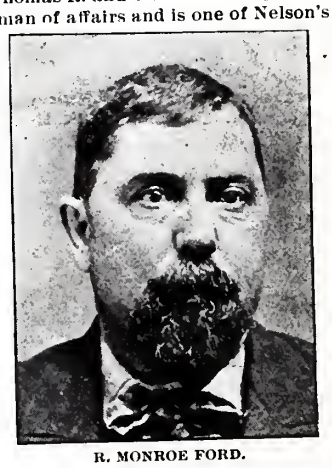
FORD BROTHERS, DISTILLERS. . . . .

It is always meet and proper that just deserts be given those who are entitled to them. I will therefore try and do this distillery justice in this sketch. Ford Brothers are by raising distillers. They, like their ancesters, were raised and made whisky near where the first distillery in Kentucky was established. The Ford Brothers are business men of sagacity and experience. R. Monroe Ford is President and General Manager, and is the only active member of the company, the others, Thomas R. and Curtis J., being silent members. Mr. Monroe Ford is a man of affairs and is one of Nelson's most progressive citizens. Besides holding a high position in business affairs, is President of the Bardstown and Green River Turnpike Co., and is recognized as one of the best that road ever had. He was born in Nelson county, just a few miles from Howardstown, and was educated in the common schools of that county. He has always been a successful farmer and trader, and as a distiller is extremely watchful as to the protection and security of his whisky. Ford Brothers' reputation, as distillers, in this section, is equal to that of any of the firms herein named. Their distillery is situated on the Bardstown and Green River Turnpike road, and on the waters of Davis Run, just one mile north of New Haven. There are some twenty-five springs available for the distillery supply. The plant has recently been supplied with all new machinery, etc., and is splendidly situated with fine drainage facilities. The capacity of the house is fifty bushels of grain per day. The warehouse, which is situated high up on a hill, is splendidly built and well ventilated. This whisky is of a light red color, and has a delicious flavor. Their celebrated brand, "Pride of Nelson," is known all over the Southern and Western States. The scenery surrounding the premises is quite inviting, and the water that flows from so many fine springs is clear and abundant. Few distilleries in the State are so well equipped for making good old-fashion whisky, and none are blessed with better water, while Mr. Ford as a distiller ranks at par. Mr. Ford when quite a young man was married to Miss Boone, a grand-daughter of Wattie Boone, the first distiller in Kentucky. She is a most attractive and handsome lady, and they have an interesting family of children.



R. MONROE FORD.

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RICHARD BOWLING, who is now distilling for Ford Bros., was born March 9th, 1866, in Nelson county, Ky. He is the son of Thomas A. and Nancy McGill Bowling. He was educated in the common schools of Nelson county, and shortly after leaving school entered the distillery of E. L. Miles & Co., at New Hope. This was in 1880, and by close application he has now became known as one of the best distillers in the county. Mr. Bowling is a believer in signs as displayed by the moon. When he is making whisky in the dark of the moon he always exceeds 4 gallons per bushel, while in the light of the moon he can only produce about 4 gallons per bushel. He is unmarried.

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1892

THOMAS LINCOLN, FATHER OF THE PRESIDENT

Thomas Lincoln died in 1851 at his home at Goose Nest Prarie in Coles County, Illinois, and was burried at the Gordon Cemetery two miles from his home. His grave remained unmarked from 1851 to 1880.

After Abraham Lincoln was Elected President he visited his step-mothers and the grave of his father and directed estimates to be sent him of the cost of erecting tombstones at his fathers grave but the war coming on the matter was forgotten and nothing was done about it until Geo. B. Balch,a local Poet of no mean talent, wrote the following poem "On the grave of Abraham Lincolns Father."

In a low sweet vale by a murming rill
The pioneers ashes are sleeping
Where the Cold Marble Shafts so lonely and still

In silence their vigils are keeping

On their sad lonely faces are words of fame
But none of them speak of his glory
When the pioneer died his name and his age
No monument whispered his story

No myrtle no ivy nor hyacinth blows
O'er the lonely place where they laid him
No cedar nor holly nor almond tree grows
Near the plebians grave to shade him

Sweet evergreens wave over many a grave
O'er some bows the sad weeping willow
But no willow trees bow nor evergreens wave
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow
While some are inhumed with the honor of State
And placed beneath temples to moulder
The grave of the Father of Lincoln the Great
Is known by a hillock and boulder
Let him take his long sleep and quietly rest
With nought to disturb or awake him
When the Angels shall come to gather the blest
To Abrahams bosom they'll take him.

These verses were published in Lippencotts Magazine and other Publications and a copy sent to Robert Lincoln who promptly responded by offering to pay the expense of a monument to his Grandfather's grave.

Meantime the poem had aroused the citizens of Coles County and some funds were raised so when the call was made on Robert Lincoln only $116.00 was required from him.

The monument is a plain Grecian Obelisk of Italian Marbel nine feet eight inches in height and by no means the finest in that rural cemetery and bears the following inscription:

THOMAS LINCOLN
FATHER OF
THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT
BORN JANUARY 6, 1778,
Died
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On the base is the word LINCOLN in large letters and a small foot stone bears the letters T. L.

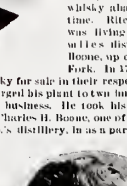
The monument was placed where it now stands on the 7th day of May, 1880, twenty nine years after his death.

BOONE & BRO.'S DISTILLERY.

It is not my intention to overlo anyone's interest, and I am candid enough to confess my belief that, knowing as as the people of Kentucky do, they will credit what I say pertaining to this, as well as the other sketches which appear in this issue. It is history which I am attempting to write, so that future generations may know the true facts as they actually happened. No one has given as much attention towards perpetuating the history of my county as I have. I have gathered my data from as reliable sources as was obtainable, and nothing will appear in this edition but what is known to me to be uncontrovertible, as far as it can be ascertained.

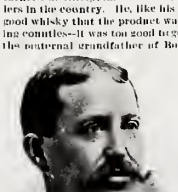
It was Daniel Boone who first enzed upon the broad and expansive fields of blue-grass that is celebrated the world over, and it was he who pronounced Kentucky the most beautiful land upon the globe. Boone's opinion is the opinion of the world to-day, and I defy anyone to prove the contrary. So it was that Wattie Boone, a near relative of Daniel Boone, and his friend Stephen Ritchie, were the first men to attempt to manufacture whisky in Kentucky. This was a long time ago. The first settlers in Nelson county were Isaac Cox and about twenty-five others. This occurred in 1775, on the waters of Cox's Creek. In 1778 Wattie Boone and Stephen Ritchie settled in this county.—Boone on Pottinger's Creek, where Knob Creek and Pottinger's Creek now empty into the Rolling Fork. They began making whisky about the same time. Ritchie, though, was living some ten miles distance from Boone, up on the Beech Fork. In 1780 they both began the manufacture of whisky for sale in their respective localities. In 1795 Wattie Boone enlarged his plant to two bushels' capacity per day, and did a thriving business. He took his son, Charles Boone, the grandfather of Mr. Charles H. Boone, one of the proprietors of the present Boone & Bro.'s distillery, in as a partner, and the next year "Old Uncle Johnnie Boone," who before his death, was famous all over this section as a great distiller, was admitted to a third interest. Uncle Johnnie was the second son of Wattie Boone. Stephen Ritchie stopped distilling for awhile, but the Boones have never been out of the business since Uncle Wattie Boone first began to make it in 1780, over one hundred and sixteen years ago. In 1830 George Boone, son of Charles Boone, and father of the present Boones, entered his father's distillery, and was recognized as one of the very best distillers in the country. He, like his father and grandfather, made such good whisky that the product was used entirely in Nelson and adjoining counties—it was too good to get far from home. George Robinson, the maternal grandfather of Boone Bros., was a practical distiller, and made fine whisky for over fifty years. He entered the business in 1810. So it will be seen that the present Boone Bros.' ancestors both paternal and maternal, were practical distillers, and it is also true that their successors, Charles H. and Nicholas R. Boone, are the only whisky distillers in the State by that name.

CHAS. H. BOONE.



N. R. BOONE.

I am now engaged in writing a history of the boyhood days of Abraham Lincoln, and I find that Thomas Lincoln, who then lived at Hodgenville, some ten miles from Boone's distillery, was in straightened circumstances, and he applied to John Boone, in 1814, for work in his distillery. Boone gave him employment and found him to be a first class hand. Thomas Lincoln having moved his family, which consisted of his wife, Nancy Lincoln nee Hanks, and son Abraham, into a house about one mile from the distillery, found it inconvenient to go home to dinner and sometimes to supper, so it devolved upon young Abraham to carry his father's meals to him. The year before Thomas Lincoln moved to Indiana, young Abraham began assisting his father in the distillery, and, as Uncle Wattie used to say, "That boy is bound to make a great man, no matter what trade he follows, and if he goes into the whisky business, he will be the best distiller in the land." Of course where Lincoln located in Indiana, there were no distilleries, so Abraham was compelled to learn a new business. You all know the rest.



ORENE PARKER.

Boone Bro.'s distillery is situated on the Bardstown and Loretto Turnpike, about two miles east of Bardstown. The scenery along the road leading to the distillery is beautiful, and the broad and expansive fields as you draw near their plant is perfectly grand, especially to the eye of an artist. The warehouse is situated upon an elevation and the distillery near the head of a ravine. Large springs of fine free-stone water pour from the earth in abundant quantities, there being no less than ten never-failing springs within a few hundred yards of the distillery. The capacity of the house is 75 bushels of grain per day. The very best of grain is used in producing this fine whisky. The warehouse is iron-clad, and has a capacity of 2,000 barrels. Their brands are the celebrated "Boone Bros." and "Old Maid."

MR. ORENE PARKER, of Covington, whose photograph appears herewith, has the exclusive contract for handling these brands. The trade is now mostly in Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Kentucky. Mr. Parker is one of the best known whisky merchants in Kentucky, and deals exclusively in pure Kentucky Bourbon and rye whiskies and his statements about his goods may be relied upon.

CHARLES H. BOONE was born in Nelson county, October 28th, 1847, and is one of the best known and most popular men and distillers in Nelson county. He lives in true Kentucky style, and his home is a complete rendezvous for Kentucky cordiality and hospitality. He is unmarried.

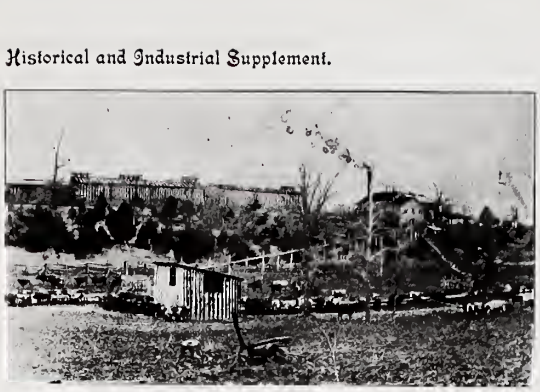
NICHOLAS R. BOONE, the junior partner of Boone Bros., was born April 7th, 1862, and is a man of sterling worth and integrity. He superintends the distillery, while his brother attends to the selling of the product and purchasing the grain. No young man in Nelson county enjoys a reputation for industry and sobriety greater than does Nicholas R. Boone. In 1892 he married the beautiful and accomplished Miss Jessie Harrington, of Bardstown. They have two sprightly little girls, Cecilia, aged two years, and Mollie Weller, aged eight months.

FRANK N. BOONE, who is the distiller for Boone Bros., was born in Nelson county in 1874. He was educated at Gethsemane, St. Joseph's and Cecilian Colleges. After leaving school he entered the distillery business, and has ever since been connected with the manufacture of whisky. He is a practical distiller and inherits the wonderful knowledge of his forefathers in knowing how to make genuine Kentucky Bourbon. Mr. Boone is very affable, and is recognized in society as, what sensible people would say, a fine catch.

J. H. MAHONEY, WALNUT HOLLOW DISTILLERY.

It having been a long time since the writer visited Howard's Mill and knowing the grand and magnificent scenery along the route, he provided himself with a fine pair of field glasses, that he might closely observe the wonderful beauty and grandeur, and set out. The upper Rolling Fork is exceedingly crooked and winds around and around, like the trail of a snake, often at certain points, coming within a few yards of its former course. Large springs of pure freestone water flow down the sides of the rocky cliffs, and do so continuously throughout the year. Broad bottoms of fine Indian corn meet the eye on every side. The scenery after you leave New Haven, the nearest railroad station, until you reach the distillery, is one of exquisite grandeur, and fills the soul with an admiration which baffles description. Go where you may—to the Rockies, the Alleghenies, or the Sierra Nevadas, though they may reach higher up towards the blue capped clouds, they do not compare in magnificence with the beautiful Muldraugh Hills. On reaching the distillery I saw just what the reader now sees in the picture herewith produced—an old-fashion, hand made, sour mash distillery. It was first established by Fred Bray, in 1861, and then was run by James Mahoney, the father of Mr. James H. Mahoney, until 1888, when the latter and Miles A. Howard formed a partnership. In 1895 Mr. Mahoney bought Mr. Howard's interest, and is now the sole owner. The capacity is 26 bushels of grain per day, and the grain used comes from the Rolling Fork bottoms adjoining. Bright crystalized water, as pure as can be found anywhere on the globe, flow in large streams down from the hilltops within a few feet from the distillery. Mr Mahoney is a practical distiller, having began to learn the trade while a mere boy. He has, though, as his regular distiller, Uncle Richard Bowling, an honest and clever old colored man, who has been making whisky for the this house since 1845. The late lamented Silvester Johnson once said that Uncle Richard knew more about making straight old fashion whisky than any distiller in Kentucky. Mr. Johnson was for many years the largest wholesale liquor dealer in Kentucky. In 1859 James H. Mahoney's father sold a large quantity of old whisky to Henry C. Fink, of Louisville, who took it to the Vienna Exposition, where it took first premium. Mr. Fink brought one barrel back to this country with him and refused $500 for it. This whisky was put up in old wooden whoop barrels, and was made by Uncle Richard Bowling, the present distiller. The whisky is mostly consumed in Nelson and adjoining counties, and is so good that it rarely gets out of the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Mahoney intends, though, to enlarge the capacity of his house, and it will not be long before he will be supplying the markets of the South and West, where most of the Kentucky product goes for consumption. It would be a royal treat to any lover of mountain scenery, broad expansive bottoms, and as beautiful flowing streams of pure water as is to be found upon the earth, to pay Mr. Mahoney a visit and partake of his unbounded old Kentucky hospitality. James H. Mahoney was born December 11th, 1853, upon the place where he now resides. He is the son of James and Mary Spalding Mahoney, whose forefathers were among the earliest and most prominent families of Nelson and Marion counties. He was educated in the common schools Nelson county, and his first occupation was that of an errand boy around his father's distillery. Together with running a large and productive farm, he has been continuously engaged in making whisky all his life. He stands high as a man and neighbor, and as a practical distiller has few equals in the State. His celebrated brand of whisky, "Walnut Hollow," bids fair to make him famous the world over. He has never attempted to push his brand beyond the confines of Kentucky, but hereafter he will endeavor to compete with the more famous brands, and try and prove to those who claim to be good judges of pure bourbon that his whisky is superior in color and flavor to that of any other brand on the market. He now contemplates enlarging his distillery, as he has disposed of his entire crop for the next three years to an Indiana firm. In 1880 Mr. Mahoney wedded Miss Eliza J. Mills, a Marion county belle. They have seven children, four boys and three girls.

JAS. H. MAHONEY'S DISTILLERY, NEAR HOWARDSTOWN, KY.



THE S. P. LANCASTER DISTILLERY, NEAR BARDSTOWN, KY.

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Among the most noted distillers and race-horse producers in Kentucky are the Lancasters. S. P. Lancaster, of whom I write, is a man of affairs and large business capacity. As a distiller, as a breeder and as a farmer he stand on a high plane. He engaged in the manufacture of bourbon whisky back in the forties. In 1850 he, in company with his brother, J. M. Lancaster, established the present distillery, and from thirty bushels' capacity it has grown up till it is now over four hundred. The distillery is situated a mile and a half from Bardstown, on the Springfield Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. All the very latest improvements in machinery, etc., for the manufacture of fine whisky, may be seen here. There is splendid drainage, the distillery being situated upon the side of a hill, thereby allowing all impurities to be carried down into the creek below. Four never-failing springs supply sufficient water to run this large establishment. The corn, malt and rye used is select. Mr. Lancaster being a large farmer, produces a considerable portion of the corn, which is of a fine, flinty variety, used at the distillery. The warehouses are elevated, and are iron-clad. They are heated by steam, well ventilated, and have a capacity of over fifteen thousand barrels. Mr. Lancaster makes no private brands; his only brand is the celebrated "S. P. Lancaster," which is well known throughout the country. Withrow's run is a beautiful stream, and there is much picturesque scenery from its fountain head to its mouth. Nazareth Academy is only a short distance from this celebrated distillery. Just above the distillery is where the Springfield branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad crosses over a large trestle. The general management of this large plant is mostly superintended by Mr. Lancaster himself. He is a wonderfully energetic man, and possessing as he does, so much knowledge of the requirements of a distiller in this sense, finds it exceedingly beneficial to the interests of his purchasers to give his personal attention to the manufacture of his product. Mr. Lancaster has been for years identified as one of the most successful and intelligent farmers in Nelson county. A man of strong and vigorous intellect, congenial, and noted for that old time Kentucky hospitality, which has made our Commonwealth so famous the world over. Adjoining Mr. Lancaster's distillery is his well known stock farm. Such famous horses as Linden, Marion C., Kiola, Carus and Becky B., have been bred and raised upon the farm by Mr. Lancaster. He now has some twenty fine brood mares, and one of the finest bred stallions in the country, Trafalgar. He is a beautiful sorrel, with a white star in his forehead. Mr. Lancaster is the son of Ben and Annie Pottinger Lancaster, of Marion county, and was born there in 1830. He attended St. Mary's College one year and St. Joseph's College two years. After leaving school he engaged in farming and breeding fine race horses. He is a representative Democrat, and is unmarried.

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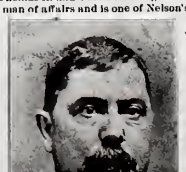

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Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow
While some are inhumed with the honor of State
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The grave of the Father of Lincoln the Great
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On the base is the word LINCOLN in large letters and a small foot stone bears the letters T. L.

The monument was placed where it now stands on the 7th day of May, 1880, twenty nine years after his death.

Thos. Lincoln's second wife sleeps by his side with no stone to mark her grave. She died in 1869 and so highly was she esteemed that the whole surrounding country joined in her funeral procession.

A copy of the family record in the hands of John Hall a grandson of Thos. Lincoln's second wife gives the following dates:

Thos. Lincoln born January 6, 1778;
Married June 6, 1806 to Nancy Hanks
who was born February 5, 1784

Sarah Lincoln, daughter of Thomas and
Nancy Lincoln born February 12, 1809.

Sarah Bush first married Daniel Johnson
and afterwards became the second wife of
Thos. Lincoln. She was born December 13, 1788.

Mr. Hall speaks of Thomas Lincoln as one of the best men that ever lived. A sturdy, honest God fearing man whom all the neighbors respected and turned to in time of trouble.

Would work hard all the week till Saturday and then walk to Charleston, twelve miles to hear the Gospel preached on Sunday.

This cemetery is half way between Farmington and Janesville in Coles County.

This statement was taken from a letter in the Globe Democrat of St. Louis of September 20th, 1895 and has every appearance of being historically correct, except a statement that Abraham Lincoln helped build the house for his father at Goose Nest Prairie. This is not sustained by any other authority that I have seen. Abe helped build the first house occupied by his father after reaching Illinois in 1830, but he was absent down the river with a full boat load when his father went to Coles County, never worked for him again.

September 29, 1895

J. C. Veatch.

BEAR A GREAT NAME.

PENNSYLVANIA ANCESTORS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Homestead of Mordecai Lincoln in the Vicinity of the City of Reading—The Boones and Others Who Went to Kentucky.

1898

(Reading (Pa.) Letter.)

IT IS a fact within the knowledge of very few people that on the eastern slope of the Allegheny mountains in Pennsylvania, not more than half a dozen miles east of Reading, in close proximity to Exeter station, on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad, hundreds of people are daily passing within a stone's throw of the ancient home of the forefathers of Abraham Lincoln. All that is generally known of the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln points out that they emigrated to Massachusetts, then to New Jersey, and afterwards to Berks county, Pennsylvania. From there they moved to Rockingham county, Virginia, and finally into Kentucky, where the President was born. An investigation proves, too, that the Lincolns were not always poor, but that some of them were distinguished citizens of Massachusetts, and the great-great-grandfather of the President was a prominent and extensive landholder in Pennsylvania.

The Lincoln family is of English origin and the name was quite common in England in the early part of the seventeenth century. Samuel Lincoln, the emigrant, settled in Hingham, Mass., some time near the close of the seventeenth century. He had a son named Mordecai, who was born in 1657, and who was married to Sarah Jones. Mordecai also had a son by the name of Mordecai, who moved south to New Jersey, and bought a large tract of land. He was the great-great-grandfather of President Lincoln. His wife died in New Jersey and his family consisted at least of one son, and probably one or two daughters at this time. The son's name was John and he is in the direct line of the ancestors of the President. Mordecai came to Exeter township, Berks county, Pennsylvania, about the year 1720, and bought a large territory of land in close proximity to what is now Exeter Station. Lincoln had three sons and four daughters, whose names were John, Mordecai, Thomas, Hannah, May, Ann and Sarah. In accordance with the expressed intimation in his will, another son was born in 1736, shortly after he died. This son was named Abraham, and it is of him that we know more than of any of the Berks county Lincolns.

He lived here all his life, and was prominent in the affairs of his county and state. He served prior to the revolution as a commissioner of Berks county for a number of terms, and during the revolution, on March 21, 1777, he was appointed one of the sub-lieutenants of the county. In that office he was very active in raising troops and forwarding supplies to the Continental army, and was frequently complimented from headquarters for his zeal and ability. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1782, became a delegate to the Pennsylvania convention which ratified the constitution of the United States, and he was also a member of the constitutional convention in 1787. The signature of Abraham Lincoln is found affixed to many of the deeds and public documents in the archives of Berks county. He married Anna Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone, Kentucky's famous pioneer.

However, Abraham Lincoln is not in a direct line of the President's ancestors, as has been supposed by many. His half-brother, John, the oldest son of Mordecai, and the only son of his first wife, was the great grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President. By his father's will he received a farm of three hundred acres in New Jersey, which he in all probability occupied before his father's death, but which he left shortly after the occurrence of the latter event, and came to Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he had purchased some land only a mile distant from the old homestead. Tradition locates the spot where stood the house in which he lived.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, along in the sixties, the spirit of unrest affected not only the Boones, but the Lincolns. They moved southward to Virginia and thence to Kentucky.

At this time, and almost within hailing distance of the Lincoln homestead near Exeter station, lived another fam-

J WRIGHT

The reason for the frequent family removals of the Lincolns is not well known, but it is quite sure that they were Quakers and as Berks county and its immediate surroundings comprised a good many people of the same belief, it is probable that they sought a closer religious communion with pepole who had the same spiritual tendencies. However this may be, deeds and records are in existence which show that Mordecai Lincoln bought one thousand acres of land lying in the township, from the sons of William Penn. The exact boundaries of the Lincoln purchase can be outlined, both from original data and from the knowledge of several of the inhabitants who are still living in that section. The land was in the shape of a square and lay directly on the Schuylkill river. It extended north from the river into the open country to a line of low hills along the present Philadelphia and Reading turnpike. Its eastern and western boundaries were formed by two small creeks, the Antietam, and another stream further east about half a mile.

Here Mordecai Lincoln erected a house in the southeastern corner of his land. It was built of stone and stands in a gorge, at the bottom of which the creek flows. The house remains undisturbed, with the exception of an addition, which was built about 1800, and can be seen from the railroad before reaching Exeter Station.

Records show that Mordecai Lincoln attended Gwyned meeting in Montgomery county, but as a monthly meeting was established at Oley, which is near Stonersville, Exeter township, soon after his arrival in Berks county, he severed his relations with the former and worshiped in the latter place. He died in 1735 or 1736 and was buried in the graveyard of the Oley Meeting house.

Although all records concerning the burying of Mordecai Lincoln have been lost, it is known that his body was one of the first buried in these grounds. Today the Oley meeting house is still used as a place of worship by the Friends, and the graveyard continues to receive the dead of these people, one of the latest interments being the remains of John Lincoln, a great-great-grandson of Mordecai. George and Mary Boone, the grandparents of Daniel Boone, are also buried here.

At the time of his death, Mordecai Lincoln had a son by the name of Abraham, who was the grandfather of the President, and before leaving Virginia Abraham married Hannah, the eldest daughter of William Winters, who also originally came from Berks county.

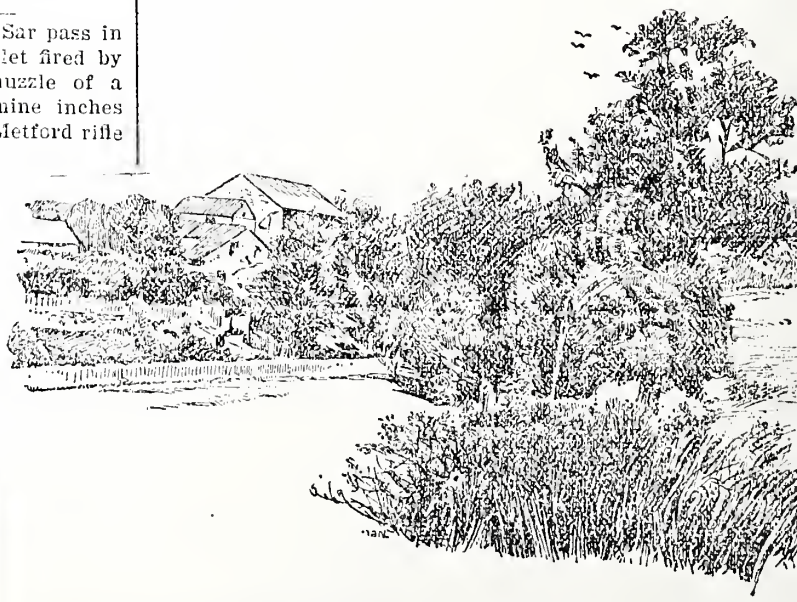
In Kentucky Abraham Lincoln was slain by the Indians. He then had three sons; Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas. The latter, a good-natured and easy-going individual, and the father of the President, married Nancy the daughter or granddaughter of John Hanks, who emigrated from Berks county, Pennsylvania, and finally landed in Rockingham county, Virginia, as we have already seen. This occurred in 1806, and in 1809 the President was born.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ily, the descendants of which were also destined to play an important part in the history of the President. This was the Hanks family, from which Nancy Hanks, the mother of the President, directly descended. The precise name of the head of the Hanks family is uncertain, but it is generally believed to have been John.

Following the fall of Boone, the family of John Hanks also left its native soil to go to Virginia, while John Lincoln, the great grandfather of the President, was still there.

In the fight in the Saran Sar pass in northwest India, a rifle bullet fired by the enemy entered the muzzle of a Sepoy's rifle, penetrating nine inches down the barrel. The Lee-Metford rifle is of .303 calibre.



HOMESTEAD OF H. LINCOLN.

Thos. Lincoln Church Attendance.

Thomas Lincoln his Tomb.
H G Glasscock (Independent Jan 11 '11)

Booth, Jane Allen & Jane Wade Lincoln were Baptist members. Stanley Walker who also came in by, was their pastor. Our town has a big mound of the Lincoln family, which was formerly on a farm of Colo Grant, but now has all fencing and has been turned to his death. Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter, [illegible] make him a coffin he would attend with the deceased on saddle to other church yard.
He was stoop or extended a little in front but was an attractive Costumer. (a good character he left of them)

History Shows There Were 29 Lincolns Named Abraham

NAME SPELLED LINCORN, LINCKORN, LINCON, LINCOLN

EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF THE SUBJECT BY READING ATTORNEY

"The Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln" was the theme of a most interesting address by Harry K. Kanitner, a member of the Berks bar, at the November meeting of the Historical Society of Berks county. It was listened to with close attention and showed that Mr. Kanitner has been a close student of Lincoln, the martyred President. He brought out a number of new facts in regard to the early Lincolns when they were residents of Berks. His address follows:

DATA EXAMINED.

During the 175th anniversary of the founding of Reading which was celebrated last year, references were made in several publications to the effect that President Lincoln was reputed to be a descendant of the Lincoln family which was prominent in Berks county during the 18th century. Your secretary, upon having his attention called to the statement—which implied a doubt of a long established historical fact—imposed upon me the duty of examining all available data with a view of determining definitely whether or not such relationship existed, and I report my findings in a paper to be presented to your organization.

It appears that H. M. Richards of Lancaster, formerly a resident of Reading, and the late George F. Henry, Louis Richards and Benjamin F. Owens spent considerable time in tracing the relationship in question. About 16 years ago Mr. Richards prepared and read at a meeting of this society a very complete and accurate paper in which the connection between the President and the Lincoln family of Berks county was conclusively established. His paper was published in the proceedings of your society for the year 1909 and was also reprinted in full in Morton L. Montgomery's "Historical and Biographical Annals of Berks County."

MORE EVIDENCE.

Since that time, Lincoln genealogists have discovered additional evidence to confirm the conclusions reached by Mr. Richards. Marion Dexter Learned, in his book, "Abraham Lincoln, An American Migration," 1909, traced in her recent work, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," and Wilder Dwight Quint, in his "History of the Lincoln Family," have taken considerable light on the same subject.

That President Lincoln's knowledge of his early ancestry was somewhat vague is shown by the brief biography furnished by him to E. W. Fellows, two weeks after his first nomination for President in 1860, in which he said:

QUOTES LINCOLN.

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin county, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families, second families, perhaps I should say, my mother, who died in my tenth year, was of an family of the name of Hanks, some of whom now reside in Adams and others in Macon county, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham county, Virginia, to Kentucky about 1781 or 2, where a year or two later he was killed by Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berks county, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like.

President Lincoln was interested in acquiring some knowledge of his ancestry long before he became prominent. In 1848, in correspondence with Solomon Lincoln, of Hingham, Mass., he said:

"My father's name is Thomas, my grandfather's name was Abraham, the same as my own. My grandfather went from Rockingham county in Virginia to Kentucky about the year 1782, and two years afterwards was killed by the Indians. We have a vague tradition that my great-grandfather went from Pennsylvania in Virginia, and that he was a Quaker. Further than this, I have never heard anything. It may do no harm to say that Abraham and Mordecai are common names in our family."

In a later letter he said:

"I have mentioned that my grandfather's name was Abraham. He had, as I think I have heard, four brothers, Isaac, Jacob, Thomas and John. He had three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas, my father. My uncle Mordecai had three sons, Abraham, James and Mordecai. Uncle Josiah had several daughters and an only son, Thomas. My father had an only child, myself, of course. This is all I know certainly on the subject of names; it is however my father's understanding that Abraham, Mordecai and Thomas are old family names of ours."

That the President had little, if any, earlier knowledge of his ancestry, is shown by the fly leaf of his father's family Bible, in which, in his own handwriting is recorded the dates of his sister's birth and death and the date of his own birth; but there was no entries therein relating to his father or mother or their ancestors.

MANY INTERESTED.

In the years following the President's demise, many books and biographies were written concerning him and by reason of his great prominence many persons became interested in his ancestry and sought to add to the store of knowledge concerning the Lincoln family. In "History of the Lincoln Family," compiled by Wallace Lincoln, president of the American Antiquarian Society, issued in 1906, it was published a practically complete list of approximately 2,000 Lincolns, ranging from Abraham Lincoln in the male line and from Abigail to Welthoma in the female line. From this history it appears that there have been 29 persons who bore the name of Abraham Lincoln, of whom the President was the 19th in chronological order; that 20 of them born in the name of Mordecai; and 4? of them the name of Thomas.

FIRST BERKS LINCOLN

The earliest resident of Berks county bearing the name of Lincoln was Mordecai Lincoln, the great-great-grandfather of President Lincoln. He was the third to bear that name. He was born April 21, 1686, at Hingham, Mass. His father's name was also Mordecai Lincoln. His mother's maiden name was Sarah Jones. His parents were both residents of the town of Hingham, Mass., from the time of his birth.

MOVE TO JERSEY.

Prior to the year 1714, he and his brother, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated to Monmouth county, Eastern District of the Province of New Jersey, where they settled in or near Middletown. Here Mordecai Lincoln married Hannah Salter, daughter of Richard Salter. He resided there until 1726, when he located in the district of Chester county, Pennsylvania, then called Lancaster. Inter Coventry, now Coventry township, said county, near ye branches of the French Creek and Brandywine," as his residence was listed in a general list of the taxable inhabitants in said county. For several years he was engaged in partnership with Samuel Nutt, of Coventry, and William Branson, of Philadelphia, in conducting a forge at French Creek. He sold his interest in the business to Branson on Dec. 14, 1725, but apparently continued his residence in Chester county for several years afterwards. His wife died about three years later, leaving him with five children, a son and four daughters.

COMES TO BERKS.

About 1725 he re-married. His second wife's maiden name was Mary, reputed to be a daughter of Andrew Robeson, one of the earliest settlers in the county. The earliest record of Mordecai Lincoln relating to his residence on land located within the present limits of Berks county is contained in the minutes of the Provincial Council of May 15, 1728, wherein is reported an account by Gov. Patrick Gordon of his visit to "Molston" and the "Mahantaweg" and his investigation of a skirmish in that vicinity between settlers and Indians in which a number of the latter were killed.

Governor Gordon said: "Being apprehensive that this place of war shortly might stir up the Indians to revenge it on our inhabitants in these parts, it was thought proper that some persons should be empowered by commission to gather the inhabitants together and put them in a posture of defense in case of any such attempt and for that effect John Pawlin, Marcus Huling and Mordecai Lincoln were commissioned."

It thus clearly appears that he was located in this section more than 24 years before the county of Berks was created and his settlement antedated that of Conrad Weiser by more than a year. In 1729 he acquired title by lease in a tract of 1,000 acres of land situated then in Amity, Philadelphia county, and from that time until his demise he resided thereon. The history of the Lincolns of Berks county is intimately connected with this tract of land, as the following account of the title hereto will disclose.

QUOTES FROM DEEDS.

In a number of deeds of record in Berks county it is recited that this land was originally conveyed by William Penn to "Tobias Collet, citizen and haberdasher of London, Daniel Quare of London, and Henry Goldney of London, linen-a-draper," who with others traded under the name of "The London Company," and by them was conveyed on Feb. 20, 1718 to Andrew Robeson, described therein as of "Roxburrow, Philadelphia county, to be holden of him 'under the yearly rent of one beaver skin on the first day of March, forever.'" Andrew Robeson died prior to Feb. 27, 1719. On that date his will was proved at Philadelphia. Therein he devised to his eldest son, Andrew, the "Roxburrow" mill, to his son, Jonathan, the "one thousand acres of land and plantation whereon I now live," to his son, Israel, 650 acres of land and to his son Peter "635 acres now called Neversink." Other devises and bequests were made to six other children, one of whom was a daughter named Mary, then in her minority.

From this it will be observed that as early as 1718, Andrew Robeson dealt with his property as if the tract of land and that the Mordecai Lincoln house, reputed to have been built in 1733, was not the first house to be erected on the Lincoln plantation. Jonathan Robeson conveyed the land to Thomas Millard on Oct. 1, 1729 and the latter conveyed it to Mordecai Lincoln on May 9, 1730, the very day his son Mordecai was born.

BECOMES A JUSTICE.

Three years after his settlement on this land he was appointed by the Provincial Council one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Philadelphia. The commission was issued on March 1, 1732. He was re-appointed Dec. 5, 1733 by Patrick Gordon, lieutenant-governor of the colony. These appointments would seem to indicate that he was regarded as a representative citizen of the county.

The settlers of Oley and Tulpehocken were a very progressive set of men. Oley was settled as early as 1698. The first settlement of Palatines at Tulpehocken was effected in 1723. These settlements were nearly 20 miles apart. In 1727 residents of both districts petitioned the county court of Philadelphia in order to lay out a public highway, beginning at the Lutheran Meeting House at Tolpehockan to end in the Ridge road at or near Jacob Boone's House near George Boone's Mill at Oley."

The road requested was not fully constructed at that time. But prior to 1733, the Palatines caused a public road to be constructed from their settlement to the ford near the river Schuylkill to appear from a petition filed by them at March sessions, 1733, in the court at Philadelphia, wherein they averred "Your petitioners have been at a great charge laying out and cutting a high road from the upper part of Tulpehocken down to River Schuylkill thro. the County of Lancaster of about 18 miles in length, but not having any road further into the High Road leading from there to the City of Philadelphia, but such as is permitted to go to be the inhabitants which is very difficult and dangerous," and prayed for an order "for the laying out of a high road from Schuylkill where the above mentioned ends into the road that goeth forth from Oley to Philadelphia."

The petition was held under advisement and no action having been taken, another was filed by them in March sessions, 1735, stating that they had caused a high road to be opened and laid out from their habitations to Schuylkill River the bounds of and only upon the plantation lots of Joseph Pinner, Jonathan Robeson and George Boone, trustees to assist her. The will was witnessed by Israel Robeson, Solomon Coles and John Bell, the first named of whom appears to have been with Mordecai Lincoln at the settlement made with William Branson and the latter purchased his interest in the copartnership property and conveyed to Samuel Nutt, William Branson and Mordecai Lincoln, located at Coventry. The widow's will and the devises to his five children with Hannah Salter that Mordecai Lincoln resided in his earlier residence in Middletown, Monmouth county, N. J., 1742 his widow married Roger Roberts and thereafter, on Jan. 17, 1742, as "Mary Rodgers of Exeter, widow and executrix of Mordecai Lincoln," she executed a power of attorney to William Tillman, of Amity, who is therein described as "my son-in-law, he having married Mordecai Lincoln's daughter, Anne, authorizing him to sell the 100 acres of land lying in Middletown in East Jersey. The instrument was acknowledged before George Boone, one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the city and county of Philadelphia, who lived on a tract of land west of the farm of Mordecai Lincoln.

This was the same land which was conveyed by Richard Salter, of Freehold, Monmouth county, Province of New Jersey, May 26, 1736, to Mordecai "Lincon" then of Chester county, Province of Pennsylvania, and according to the description was located in the town of Oley, Berks county.

SPELLED "LINCON."

It will be noted that Mordecai's name as written in this deed was spelled "Lincon." He signed his will in exactly the same way. Although his name appeared upon the tax lists in Chester county in 1720 as Mordecay Lincoln, 1722, as Mordecai Lincoln, in 1724 as Mordecay Lincoln, and in 1725 as Mordecay Lincoln, whenever he wrote his name himself the second i was omitted. The peculiarity was the means of tracing him back to Monmouth county, New Jersey, where one John Bowne, of Middletown, by will dated Sept. 14, 1714, published 12 years prior to the time Hannah "Lincon," wife of Mordecai Lincoln.

He figured in a number of suits in Courts of Monmouth county, New Jersey, between 1716 and 1722, which his name is spelled variously Mordecai Lincoln, Lincorn and Lincon.

He died intestate. Richard Salter, of Freehold, Monmouth county, New Jersey, in his will, dated at his place, dated Feb. 2, 1720, was sued and delivered to him, among two tracts of land containing 100 acres on Manahawkin Creek, Gravell Branch, Monmouth county, New Jersey. One of these tracts, containing 200 acres, was the land which he devised to his son, John, and the other, containing 100 acres, was the land which he devised thereby to his daughters, Anne and Sarah.

SAME PERSON.

From the conveyance mentioned in the manner in which he spelled his name, it is clear that the Mordecai Lincoln who resided in New Jersey from 1714 to 1729 was the same person who lived at Coventry, Chester county, Pa., from 1726 to 1742, and who later lived and died on the Lincoln homestead in Amity, Philadelphia county, which later in part became Exeter township, Berks county.

The connection of Mordecai Lincoln with the New Jersey Lincolns is known by the fact that a man named Abraham Lincoln regarded his brother, also resided in Monmouth county, New Jersey, where he served as a juror on Nov. 22, 1726, and assisted in preparing an inventory of the personal estate of one Jacob Gordon, on May 13, 1725. He purchased land in Springfield, Chester county, Pa., and on Jan. 16, 1728, purchased from one Thomas Williams, of Freehold, Monmouth county, N. J., a tract of 320 acres of land situated on Crum Creek in Springfield, the deed being made to Abraham "Lincon" and the property was assessed against him in that manner from 1719 to 1733 when it was changed to Linchorn and subsequently as Abram Lincoln.

LARGE PURCHASES.

Abraham Lincoln purchased a tract of 240 acres of land Feb. 12, 1725 from Safery Borden and a tract of 700 acres March 27, 1725, from Abraham VanHorn. He conveyed these two tracts to Thomas Williams by deed dated April 29, 1740. In which his name was spelled "Lincon" and in which he was referred to as of Monmouth county, N. J., and designated as a "blacksmith."

Other conveyances of land in Philadelphia to Abraham were made in the same manner and he will of Abraham Lincoln proved April, 1742, was signed by him, "Lincon." He wrote his name in the same way on a petition of an application for a liquor license which is on file in Chester county.

The fact that Mordecai was designated as an iron monger and Abraham as a blacksmith and that the former's father-in-law conducted a forge in Middletown, N. J., and that the former resided at Freehold from 1714 of 1720, while he resided there from 1720 to 1729, that they were both named "Lincon" and appeared to have no relatives or children residing in that vicinity has been considered satisfactory evidence that they were brothers and identified them as Mordecai and Abraham Lincoln, the two eldest sons of Mordecai Lincoln of Hingham, Mass., a third son of Samuel Lincoln, who emigrated from Norfolk, England, and settled at Hingham, Mass., in 1637. The first named Lincoln operated an iron works at Scituate, Mass. The similarity of occupations and names, the fact that the elder Mordecai bequeathed money to his sons Mordecai and Abraham, payable in "money or lawful bills of credit," indicating apparently the fact that they resided outside of the Province of Massachusetts, and the further fact that there are no records in Massachusetts or elsewhere to account for a Mordecai and an Abraham Lincoln during the early part appears to justify the conclusions that Abraham and Mordecai "Lincon" were brothers and the children of Mordecai Lincoln of Hingham and Scituate, Mass.

OWNED 1,400 ACRES.

Mordecai Lincoln while possessed of more than 1,400 acres of land at his decease, left a comparatively small estate as is disclosed by the inventory thereof taken by Ellis Hugh and Benjamin Bunn, appraisers, on Nov. 1, 1742. Nearly one-fourth of the personal property was owned by two slaves, one of whom was appraised at "Negro Will" at £30 pounds, and the other at "Negro John for a woman" who was valued at £20 pounds, which the appraisers described as "a very ordinary old and looking woman." The other slave was valued at £15 pounds, which the appraisers described as "a middle aged man." The inventory also showed a "Negro Will" in the county also appraised at £30 pounds, which he devised to his son, John, and the other, containing 100 acres, which he devised thereby to his daughters, Anne and Sarah.

JOHN LINCOLN.

John Lincoln, the grandfather of President Lincoln, was born in the county of Berks, in the year 1742, in the Amity section, which later became part of Exeter township, Berks county, Pa. He was the son of Mordecai Lincoln, who resided in New Jersey, and Abraham Lincoln, his brother, who lived in Chester county, Pa., from 1726 to 1742. When his parents moved to Berks county, John, as a boy, was accompanied by his uncle Abraham, who spent the remainder of his days with his nephew, John, who died in 1812, at the age of 70 years. He married Rebecca Flowers, daughter of Abraham Flowers, who was a daughter of Rev. Richard Peter, of the Church of Conarmarron township in Berks county, Pa., and wife, Rebecca.

COMES TO BERKS.

He established his home in 1768 on a tract of 75 acres and 3 perches of land situated in that portion of Union township, Berks county, which was later a part of Caernarvon township, Lancaster county, where he lived his life as a weaver. This land was located at a point less than one half mile east of the present boundary of the borough of Birdsboro and about three-fourths of a mile south of the present side of the Schuylkill River. The original warrant for this land was issued June 13, 1746, to one John Lloyd, who, on Oct. 5, 1746, assigned it to John Lincoln, "then of Caernarvon township." A patent for the land and improvements was not issued until 19 years later when Thomas Penn and Richard Penn conveyed the property to John Lincoln on June 7, 1765. Here he resided for a period of 15 years and probably combined the occupation of farming and weaving at the same time.

The connection of John Lincoln with the Mordecai Lincoln who resided in New Jersey in 1714 and the Mordecai Lincoln of Amity is shown in a deed from John "Lincon" in which he is designated as a weaver and a resident of the township of Cheraryon, county of Lancaster and "the son and heir of William Lincon, deceased," in New Jersey to consummate the sale is shown in an acknowledgment to the deed before Andrew Johnson, one of "his Majesty's Council for the Province of New Jersey." On June 13, 1746, he purchased from John Lloyd of Robeson township, Lancaster county, a tract of 120 acres of land situated in said township. This land was immediately adjacent to the tract of 50 acres of perches of land before mentioned and extended from thence to the southeast side of the Schuylkill River along which it extended for a distance of about one-third of a mile. The deed was written "Lincon" corresponding with the name which he wrote in a portion of Hobson's deed. Lloyd's deed was signed "Lincorn."

(The final installment of this address will appear in the Eagle Sunday, Nov. 23.)

Mount Monocacy

(By MARY A. de BARGLA, Douglassville.)

[illegible]

JOHN LINCOLN.

[illegible]

COMES TO BERKS.

[illegible]

LARGE PURCHASES.

[illegible]

NAMED ABRAHAM.

[illegible]

BECOMES A VIEWER.

[illegible]

GREAT UNDERTAKING.

[illegible]

QUOTES FROM DEEDS.

[illegible]

MANY INTERESTED.

[illegible]

MORE EVIDENCE.

[illegible]

QUOTES LINCOLN.

[illegible]

THE BERKS LINCOLNS

Attorney Harry K. Kanitner has prepared an exhaustive account of the lives of the Berks ancestors of President Abraham Lincoln, which he delivered before the Historical Society of Berks county. The story of it is published in this issue of the Eagle. The remainder will appear on Sunday, Nov. 23.

Great Grandfather of President Lincoln Was a Berks Tax Collector

LOCATES IN VIRGINIA AFTER LIVING IN THIS COUNTY FOR 37 YEARS

THE EARLY MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY FILLED VARIOUS OFFICES, SUCH AS SHERIFF, COMMISSIONER AND LEGISLATOR

(The following is the balance of the "Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln" an interesting address delivered before the Historical Society of Berks County by Attorney Harry F. Kenffer.)

John Lincoln, great grandfather of President Lincoln, served the King as one of his Berks tax collectors in 1758. In those early days of taxation without representation, the colonists were subjected to this payment to the direct taxes levied upon the "Property" tax of one shilling six pence per pound and 20 shillings per head on the inhabitants of Berks" which John Lincoln undertook to collect and the other was for "the county tax of three pence per pound and nine shillings per head laid on the inhabitants of Berks county for defraying the contingent billing and dealing the soldiers forces and crews with such other as may ordered by the public taxes" (1 and arrears of the county.

On May 11, 1757, he sold 150 acres tract of land to Jacob Bedney (Bayley) of Hilltown township, Bucks County. June 14, 1762, he purchased of John Campbell, of Amity, a tract of land containing 34 acres located in said township, and sold with his farm 1 acre and 1 perch

OFFICE OF
DR. W. H. DOAK
MARTINSVILLE, ILL.

Martinsville Ill
October 15 1928

Mr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Dear Sir:

Your of 10th just arriving for information about the personal appearance of Thomas Lincoln, father of the President came to my desk a day or two ago. The communication which you read in a Terre Haute paper was written by me to my nephew, the Rev. W. D. Boring of Cambridge, Ohio some 5 years ago, and not written by my nephew as you said. My article was published in pamphlet form but unfortunately I own but one copy or I should be glad to give one to you.

Mr. George Baldwin who lived for about 20 years a near neighbor of Thomas Lincoln near Farmington Ill. described him as follows:— He was five feet 10 or 11 inches tall, standing very erect, with rather large bones and strong heavy muscles, weighing about 170 or 175 lbs, with medium high forhead, straight nose, gray or light blue eyes, rather a broad face, and black hair which he wore combed straight down and cut off square at the ends, and not combing his front locks behind or in front of his ears, his ears did not show - being covered with hair giving

him somewhat of a picturesque appearance.

I treated a patient a few years ago who once lived about 3 miles from Thomas Lincoln and he gave me the very same description of his personal appearance, and this for the description is so distinct.

John Hall, a relative of his second wife and a near neighbor told me he was sure that Thomas Lincoln never had a picture taken of himself. John Hall told me that he and Thomas Lincoln's wife both insisted on his having a picture taken just a year or two before his death, but he neglected to have it done.

P. S. I have a request to write an article for a Magazine, telling of God's special Providence in leading Abraham Lincoln from his childhood to the Presidency. I think I will do this sometime during the winter. I do a little literary work as a type-play.

If I can aid you in any other way let me hear from you.

Yours truly

Dr. W. H. Doak

LINCOLN LORE

No. 43 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA February 3, 1930

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF THE LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ENDOWED BY THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

UNTENABLE THEORIES ABOUT LINCOLN'S EARLY ENVIRONMENT

The following excerpts, which present the parents and early home life of Abraham Lincoln in such an unfavorable light, have been compiled to serve as a background for a paper to be read, by the editor, before the New England Genealogical Society at Boston on February 12. An exhibit of documentary sources will be published in Lincoln Lore next week which will justify the labeling of these excerpts as untenable theories. The traditional Thomas Lincoln must fade out as the historical Thomas Lincoln is introduced by duly authorized records. The stigma which has rested on the President's pioneer father and the exaggerated conditions existing in the early Lincoln home are not in harmony with documentary evidence:

"The old gentleman (Thomas Lincoln) was not only void of energy but dull." Herndon. Lincoln, page 6.

"No more ignorant boy than Thomas could be found in the back woods." Beveridge. Abraham Lincoln, page 12.

"The whole house squalid, cheerless, and utterly void of elevating inspiration." Schurz. Abraham Lincoln, page 12.

"Here was the home and here were its occupants, all humble, all miserably poor." Holland. Life of Abraham Lincoln, page 23.

"He (Thomas Lincoln) was no toiler but from all accounts an ignorant, shiftless vagabond." Coleman. The Sad Story of Nancy Hanks, page 8.

"It was here that Abraham Lincoln was born. The manger at Bethlehem was not a more unlikely birthplace." Sheppard. Abraham Lincoln, page 8.

"He (Thomas Lincoln) was a shiftless fellow, never succeeding in anything, who could neither read nor write." Stephenson. Lincoln, page 4.

"Reared in gripping, grinding, pinching penury, and pallid poverty, amid the most squalid destitution possible to conceive." Peters. Abraham Lincoln's Religion, page 3.

"Lincoln was born in a degradation very far below respectable poverty in the State of Kentucky, and lived in that poverty all his life." Chafin. Lincoln, Man of Sorrows, page 10.

"In the midst of the most unpromising circumstances that ever witnessed the advent of a boy into the world," Nicolay and Hay. Abraham Lincoln, A History, Volume 1, page 25.

"Nobody ever accused him (Thomas Lincoln) of building a house or to pretend to do more than a few little odd jobs connected with such an undertaking." Lamon. Life of Lincoln, page 9.

"The father was by calling a carpenter but not good at his trade, a shiftless, migratory squatter by invincible tendencies and a very ignorant man." Morse. Abraham Lincoln, Volume 1, page 10.

"Thomas seems to have been the only member of the family whose character was not respectable. He was an idler, trifling, poor, a hunter, and a rover." Lamon. Life of Lincoln, page 8.

"In childhood and youth his (Abraham Lincoln's) intimate associates and putative relatives a gross, illiterate, and superstitious rabble." Cathey. True Genesis of a Wonderful Man, page 193.

"Thomas Lincoln never prospered like Josiah and Mordecai, and never seemed to have left the impression of his goodness or of anything else on any man." Charnwood. Abraham Lincoln, page 4.

"Thomas Lincoln, a poverty-stricken man whom misfortune had seemingly chosen for her own, and whose ambitions were blighted and hope almost dead." Peters. Abraham Lincoln's Religion, page 3.

"There could hardly be a poorer family than that which now undertook to support its narrow, hopeless life in that dull corner of the earth's teeming surface." Stoddard. Abraham Lincoln, page 11.

"He (Thomas Lincoln) reached the age of 27 the year of his marriage, a brawny, wandering laborer, a poor white, unlettered and untaught except for the trade of carpenter." Strunsky. Abraham Lincoln, page 5.

"At the time of his (Thomas Lincoln's) birth, twenty-eight years before, his parents—drifting, roaming, people, struggling with poverty—were dwellers in the Virginia mountains." Stephenson, Lincoln, page 4.

"His (Abraham Lincoln's) father was an ignorant man, amiable enough, but colorlessly negative, without strength of character and without ambitions worthy of the name." Hill. Lincoln the Lawyer, page 6.

"Thomas Lincoln and Enlow had a regular set-to fight about the matter in which encounter Lincoln bit off the end of Enlow's nose. Finally, Lincoln, to clear himself, moved to Indiana." Weik. The Real Lincoln, page 31.

"I never could understand how so great and good a man as old Abe could have descended from such a low breed and entirely worthless vagabond as Thomas Lincoln." Cathey. True Genesis of a Wonderful Man, page 239.

"Thomas Lincoln was an ignorant, shiftless, worthless, illiterate man . . . he thought it a waste of time for young Abraham to learn to read and write as he could do neither." Chafin. Lincoln, Man of Sorrows, page 11.

"So pained have some persons been by the necessity of recognizing Thomas Lincoln as the father of the president, that they have welcomed a happy escape from this so miserable paternity." Morse. Abraham Lincoln, Vol. I, page 7.

"But Lincoln rose from a lower depth than any of them. From a stagnant, putrid pool; like the gas which set on fire by its own energy and self-combustible nature rises in jets blazing, clear, and bright." Herndon. Herndon's Lincoln, Volume 1, page 9.

"Born not only in poverty, but surrounded by want and suffering; favored in nothing; wanting in everything which makes up the joys of life . . . it was literal truth that 'he had not where to lay his head.'" Cathey. True Genesis of a Wonderful Man, page 255.

"The domestic surroundings under which the babe (Abraham Lincoln) came into life were wretched in the extreme. . . . Rough, coarse, low, ignorant, and poverty-stricken surroundings were about the child." Morse. Abraham Lincoln, Volume 1, page 9.

"In childhood and youth his (Abraham Lincoln's) place of abode a squalid cabin in a howling wilderness, his meal an ashen crust, his bed a pile of leaves, his nominal guardian a shiftless and worthless vagabond." Cathey. True Genesis of a Wonderful Man, page 193.

"His (Abraham Lincoln's) father a typical 'poor Southern white,' shiftless and improvident, without ambition for himself or his children, constantly looking for a new piece of ground where he might make a living without much work." Schurz. Abraham Lincoln, page 12.

"Abraham Lincoln came of the most unpromising stock on the continent, 'the poor white trash' of the South. His shiftless father moved from place to place in the western country, failing where everybody else was successful in making a living; and the boy spent the most susceptible years of his life under no discipline but that of degrading poverty." Woodrow Wilson. Division and Reunion, page 216.

LINCOLN LORE

No. 44 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA February 10, 1930

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF THE LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ENDOWED BY THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

THOMAS LINCOLN CHRONOLOGY

This chronology of Abraham Lincoln's father is compiled from documentary sources. As Thomas Lincoln's direct influence over his son ceased with Abraham's leaving home at the age of twenty-one, the chronology is concluded at this point.

1776—January, born in Rockingham County, Virginia.

1782—Migrated with parents to Kentucky.

1786—May, witnessed his father's massacre by the Indians near Louisville. Fall, moved with family to Washington County.

1795—June 5 to August 5, served in militia against Indians; July 27, name appeared on tax list for Washington County, between 16 and 21 years of age.

1796—February, on road petition in Washington County; May 11, again listed on Washington County tax list as above; July 13, paid $9.56 by Samuel Haycraft at Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

1797—August 27, listed on Hardin County tax list as 21 years old or over. September 1, credited with six days work on mill dam. September 9, paid $48.65 by Haycraft. September 12, credited with six days work on mill dam. September 17, received $6.62 from Haycraft. October, 1797, credited with three days work on mill dam. December, credited with six days work on mill dam. Received on dates not given, $52.49; $33.09.

1798—Possibly with Uncle Isaac in Tennessee.

1799—June 29, on Washington County tax list.

1800—July 14, listed one horse on Washington County tax list.

1801—May, entered land in Cumberland County*. August 5, on Washington County tax list. August 16, witness on certificate in Washington County. October 23, witness on note in Washington County. November 28, paid fee of $4.40 on Cumberland County land.*

1802—January 12, gave bond as constable in Cumberland County.* September 6, on Washington County tax list.

1803—January, served as guard of prisoner in Hardin County. June 26, signed name as witness to a note in Hardin County. September 2, purchased Mill Creek farm for $574.07 cash in hand. October, received pay for guarding prisoner one day. October 19, on Hardin County jury. November, received $6.57 for guarding prisoner. November 26, deed to his Mill Creek farm recorded. Taxed for 200 acres of land in Commissioner's book.

1804—April 19, served on two juries. April 20, served on jury. July 31, paid out $4.38 for mdse. August 8, bought a saw for $4.38. August 13, appointed constable in Cumberland County.* August 15, paid $14.60 for mdse. August 27, paid 38c for mdse. September 6, bought one plane bit for 38c. September 27, paid 82c for mdse. October 8, paid $1.67 for mdse October 16, received $14.69 for beef. November 6, bought one fiddle bass for 38c. November 10, bought one file for 38c. Listed one horse for taxes in Hardin County. Name appears on road petition in Hardin County.

1805—January 1, bought a hat for $8.75. January 14, paid $2.43 for mdse. February 9, paid $25.20 for mdse. February 19, bought two yards of calico for $2.46. February 27, bought a saw for $2.19. March, appointed a patroller for three months. April 2, bought two twists of tobacco for 38c. May 15, bought one pint of whiskey for 21c. May 25, bought a pair of suspenders for $2.19. June 12, bought one skein of silk, 21c. July 27, credited $35.76 on store account. August 20, paid $2.16 for mdse. August 23, paid $2.29 for mdse. August 24, bought one pound of tobacco, 38c. September 9, bought one file 21c. September 18, bought four yards of muslin, $2.19. September 26, bought one pound of tobacco, 38c. October 2, bought two brass rings, 38c. December 9, bought one pound of tobacco, 38c. Taxed on one horse in Hardin County.

1806—February 18, credited $102.17 on store account. February 27, bought hay, $1.34. May 1, bought one-half calfskin, 73c. May 16, paid $4.04 for mdse. May 16, paid $44.25 for mdse. May 20, Isaac Bush account charged to Thomas Lincoln, $72.98. May 21, paid $175.10 for mdse. May 16, credited $145.95 on store account. May 24, bought silk $2.91. June 2, bought a bridle, $3.31. June 4, bought mdse. $1.85. June 10, signed marriage bond in Washington County. June 12, married to Nancy Hanks in Washington County by Jesse Head. June 16, bought mdse. 45c. August 4, bought mdse. $1.86. August 6, charged with Brumfield's account, $5.83. August 14, charged Henry Ewing's account, $6.33. September 13, bought three pounds of tobacco, $1. October 25, bought mdse., $1.39. November 12, bought whiskey, 21c. On Hardin County tax list this year and tended land in Cumberland County.

1807—January 1, bought tobacco, 66c. January 15, bought kitchenware, $5.93, and one sword, $3.00. February 23, bought mdse., $1.85. February 10, his daughter Sarah born. March 9, credited $97.63 on store account. March 25, brought suit against Geoghegan for collection of wages. April 23, received judgment in Geoghegan suit for $19.85, plus 75c costs. July 2, bought one-half dozen screws. August 5, bought mdse., 54c. August 17, bought tobacco, 21c. September 19, bought gimlet, 15c. October 3, bought calomel and jalap, 21c. October 25, bought calomel and jalap, 29c. November 2, one pound of tobacco, 28c. Taxed for one town lot and one horse.

1808—February 22, bought mdse., $1.28. April 23, credited on store account, $7.26. April 25, on jury. May 8, served with summons in Geoghegan suit. May 9, in court on Geoghegan suit. May 13, bought two dozen buttons, $1.50. May 16, credited with fee in Geoghegan case. May 31, Geoghegan brought suit against Lincoln. June 3, bought sand paper and screws, 31c. June 17, on jury. June, guarded prisoner. October, appeared for Geoghegan suit. November 15, on jury. December 12, paid $200 cash for the South Fork farm. Taxed for two house lots in Elizabethtown valued at $40.00, also one horse. Moved about this time to the South Fork farm.

1809—Received $17.60 for guarding prisoner. February 12, Abraham Lincoln born. March 15, served on jury. Entered two horses on tax list.

1810—Name on tax list in Hardin County.

1811—Moved to Knob Creek farm. July 20, on tax list in Hardin County, September 2, on jury.

1812—June 11, on jury. Entered three horses for taxation. Third child, Thomas, born some time during the year.

1813—September 1, Mather brought suit against Lincoln for birthplace farm. September 7, files answer to this suit. September 6 and 7, appeared in court. September 7, served as special balesman for Cobie Scott. Name on tax list in Hardin County.

1814—April 23, called for Mill Creek deed at courthouse. May 9, appointed an appraiser for Joseph estate. July 19, bought child's play wagon for 8½c. September 5, signed the amended answer in Mather suit. October 10, bought a heifer for $9.42½c. also currycomb for 63c. October 27, sold the Mill Creek farm for $486. Listed three horses for taxes.

(To Be Continued in Lincoln Lore No. 45)

LINCOLN LORE

No. 45 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA February 17, 1930

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Endowed By The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

THOMAS LINCOLN TESTIMONIALS

This issue of Lincoln Lore is the last of a series of three numbers which have set forth traditions and facts about the father of President Lincoln. It is hoped that these broadsides have helped Lincoln students to draw their own conclusions about the status of Thomas Lincoln at the time he exerted a direct influence over his son.

Reminiscences of His Son

"Thomas, the youngest son, and father of the present subject, by the early death of his father and the very narrow circumstances of his mother, even in childhood was a wandering laboring-boy, and grew up literally without education. He never did more in the way of writing than to bunglingly write his own name. Before he was grown he passed one year as a hired hand with his Uncle Isaac on Watauga, a branch of the Holston River. Getting back into Kentucky and having reached his twenty-eighth year he married Nancy Hanks, mother of the present subject, in the year 1806. . . . . At this time (during Abraham's Kentucky school days) his father resided on Knob Creek . . . . From this place he removed to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in the autumn of 1816, Abraham then being in his eighth year. This removal was partly on account of slavery but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles in Kentucky. He settled in an unbroken forest and the clearing away of surplus wood was the great task ahead . . . March 1, 1830, Abraham having just completed his twenty-first year, his father and family, with the families of the two daughters and sons-in-law of his step-mother, left the old homstead in Indiana, and came to Illinois."

Autobiographical sketch prepared for Scripps by Abraham Lincoln.

Religious Fervor

"Mr. Hall, grandson of Thomas Lincoln's second wife, speaks of Thomas Lincoln as one of the best men that ever lived. A sturdy, honest God fearing man whom all the neighbors respected and turned to in time of trouble. . . . Would work hard all the week till Saturday and then walk to Charleston, twelve miles to hear the Gospel preached on Sunday."

Globe Democrat, St. Louis, September 29, 1895.

Hospitality

"I am just tired of hearing Grandfather Lincoln abused. Everybody runs him down. Father never gave him credit for what he was. He made a good living and I reckon he would have gotten something ahead if he hadn't been so generous. He had the old Virginian notion of hospitality. Liked to see people sit up to the table and eat hearty and there were always plenty of his relations and grandmother's willing to live on him. Uncle Abe got his honesty and his clean notions of living and kind heart from his father."

Testimony of Mrs. Dowling, granddaughter of Thomas Lincoln's second wife, as printed in "The Boyhood of Lincoln," by Eleanor Atkinson.

Horse Sense

"I have known several men who knew Thomas Lincoln intimately. They said he had (as they termed it) good strong horse sense and was an excellent man. He was a cabinet maker and thrifty when he lived in Kentucky."

J. L. Nall, Nephew of Thomas Lincoln. Whitney, "Lincoln the Citizen," p. 10.

Character Sketch

"William G. Greene spent one day with him and was interested to make a study of him, and avers that he was a man of great reasoning powers and fine social magnetism, reminding him of his illustrious son, but that having received no educational drill or discipline, he knew nothing of persistency of effort in a continuous line, nor of the laws of thrift or financial cause and effect; that he evidently was industrious, though shifting rapidly from one thing to another; that he was candid and truthful; popular with his neighbors and brave in temerity. He was very stoutly built, about 5 ft., 10 inches high and weighed nearly 200 pounds. His desire was to be on terms of amity and sociability with everyone. He had a great stock of border anecdotes and professed a marvelous proclivity to entertain by "spinning yarns" and narrating his youthful experiences."

Whitney, "Lincoln the Citizen," page 10.

Appearance

"Thomas Lincoln stood very erect. Always had his face clean shaved . . . He was 5 ft. 10 or 11 inches in height, standing very erect with large bones and strong heavy muscles. Not fat, weighing about 170 or 175 lbs. with a medium high forehead. Straight nose, gray or light blue eyes, rather a broad face and black hair, which he wore combed straight down, cut off square at the ends, and not combing his front locks behind his ears it gave him something of a picturesque appearance."

From Dr. W. H. Doak, in Terre Haute Star, February 11, 1923.

Continued From Lincoln Lore No. 44

1815—September 15, suit for ejectment from Knob Creek land brought against him. December 27, presented with bill in this suit. Listed four horses for taxes.

1816—January 22, filed amended answer in Mather suit. May 13, appointed road surveyor. June 14, summoned to appear in court action in ejectment suit. September 2, settlement of Mather suit awards Lincoln $200. October 12, signed as witness on Caleb Hazel marriage bond. November 4, filed cross bill against Bush. Paid attorneys $3.50 for printer. On tax list for last time in Kentucky. Left for Indiana between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

1817—October 15, entered one-quarter section of land in Indiana.

1818—October 5, wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died.

1819—August, voted at an election. December 2, married Sarah Bush Johnston.

1820—Name on Spencer County census report.

1823—June 7, joined Pigeon Creek Baptist Church.

1824—April 10, appointed on church committee. October 9, appointed on church committee.

1825—June 12, appointed on committee to repair meeting house. June 21, name appeared in list of church members. December 20, name again appeared on church list.

1826—August 2, daughter Sarah married Aaron Grigsby. August 4, appointed on church committee.

1827—March 9, subscribed 24 pounds of manufactured corn to church. April 30, relinquished 80 acres of his land to complete payment on the rest of his one-quarter section.

1828—January 20, daughter, Sarah Grigsby, died. September, resigned as trustee of church.

1829—December 12, granted letter of dismission from church.

1830—January 10, church letter called back, but released again. February 13, appointed on church committee. Appointed moderator at church meeting. February 20, sold Spencer County farm to Charles Grigsby. March 1, migrated to Macon County, Illinois.

1851—January 17, died in Coles County, Illinois.

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*The identification of this Thomas Lincoln with the father of the president is not positive.

Note:—The sources used in this compilation are as follows: Durrett Collection, Chicago University; Haycraft Account Book, 1796-1797; Bleakley and Montgomery Store Ledger, July 30, 1804, to June 3, 1808; Pigeon Creek church record book, 1819 to 1830; Kentucky and Indiana court records; tax reports, Kentucky State Historical Society; Lincoln family Bible.

Vincennes Sun
3/6/1930

13 PEOPLE IN LINCOLN PARTY

Three Family Groups In Caravan of 1830.

Thirteen people were in the Lincoln caravan which came to Vincennes 100 years ago today.

They might be divided into three family groups:

Thomas Lincoln, age 54; his wife, Sarah Johnston Lincoln, age 42; with Thomas' son, Abraham, age 21; and Sarah's son, John D. Johnston, age 15, comprising what was left of the original Lincoln family. Group number two was composed of Dennis F. Hanks, age 31; his wife, Elizabeth Johnson Hanks, age 23, and their four children: John, age 8; Sarah, age 7; Nancy, age 5, and Harriet, age 4.

The third group consited of but three—Squire Hall, age about 25; Mathilda Johnson Hall, his wife, age 19; and John Hall, their small child, age about 2 years.

Sixteen days were consumed in reaching the destination, five or ten miles west of Decatur. It is generally understood that the caravan was in Decatur on March 14.

The party used "three covered wagons, two drawn by oxen, and one by horses, and two saddle horses."

Thos. Lincoln's Second Log Cabin In Illinois

May 23 1930

State of Oklahoma, Okfuskee County } ss

T. J. Diehl, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, on his oath states, that he is a resident of Okemah, Oklahoma, having resided in this town for the last ten years, that he is eight-four years of age, and prior to the time he moved to Okemah was a resident of Coles County Illinois, residing there from his birth until about ten years ago.

That in the year 1869 or 1870, the affiant, with his father George Diehl, bought a lease upon the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter and Southeast Quarter of Section Six Township Eleven North Range Eight East.

Shortly thereafter, as my father and I were walking through the pasture looking for a missing animal, we came to a place about one hundred fifty yards from the northwest corner of the forty acres, about the same distance from the west line. My father stooped and looked down and said, "Here is where Abe Lincoln's father lived in an early day." The foundation logs of an old place were plainly visible. About fifty yards off, was a depression in the ground like as if there had been a well.

At different times I have heard, old settlers speak of Lincoln having lived there.

T. J. DIEHL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of May 1930.

{Seal} MARTIN L. FRERICHS, Notary Public

(In the foregoing affidavit made by T. J. Diehl the place referred to is the site of the first log cabin erected in Buck Grove by Thomas Lincoln in 1831, and now owned by C. W. Stephenson. The foundation rocks have never been disturbed. He resided here until 1834 when he purchased the 40-acre tract near Lerna, now owned by J. Will Walker.)

Photo of Thomas Lincoln

TRACING PHOTOGRAPH OF THOMAS LINCOLN

Lima Eagle 5-29-31

Indianapolis.—A mixture of hope and discouragement has met workers in the Indiana state library who are trying to determine the genuineness of a photograph which it is believed may portray Thomas Lincoln father of Abraham Lincoln. There is no record of any photograph of the father of the emancipator ever being found, library officials say.

Both Carl Lieber and William M Bass, Indianapolis students of photography. represented the picture was of a period after 1851, the date of Thomas Lincoln's death. A similiar opinion was expressed by J. R. H. Moore, head of the history department of Emmerich Manual Training high school here.

On the other hand, doubt that there was a photograph in Charleston, Ill., at the time of Thomas Lincoln's death was cleared up by Louis A. Warren, Lincoln biographer. On a recent trip to Charleston, Warren ascertained from old residents that there was a photographer there at that time.

Mrs. S. J. Schafer of Franklin, Ind., owner of the picture, told Miss Esther McNutt, head of the Indiana history and archives division of the library, who is conducting the investigation, that the photograph was brought home by her father when he was mustered out of the army following the Civil war. It bears the inscription, in faded handwriting, "Thomas Lincoln, 1778-1851." The dates are the correct ones of his birth and death, and Mrs. Schafer said they were on photograph when it was turned over to her father.

Lincoln's father is described as a stocky man, such as is shown in the picture.

1932

Anna Katherine Wyatt, of Connellsville.

TODAY'S HOUSEHOLD

by

Dorothy Davenport,

Household Science Institute

You folk who think that honest Ab
Sprang from a meagre clay,
Just read how Father L. was garbed
Upon his wedding day!

TOM LINCOLN'S WEDDING OUTFIT

NANCY HANKS, mother of Abraham Lincoln, had reason to feel proud of her well-groomed June bridegroom, Thomas Lincoln, when the two were married by the Rev. Jesse Head in the home of Richard Berry in Elizabethtown, Ky., 126 years ago in June.

There has recently come to light, reports Dr. Louis A. Warren of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, the old account book of Bleakly and Montgomery, merchants in Elizabethtown, where Thomas Lincoln did his trading in preparing for his wedding day. The book shows that he had to his credit in the store at the time he began buying material for his wedding apparel, about 49 pounds. While the pound may have been worth something less than $5 at that time, his credit with this firm alone must have amounted to about $200.

The year before he had paid $8.57 for a new hat, and $2.19 for a pair of suspenders. Then in May, 1806, the month before his wedding, he made purchases totaling $112.70, which included such items as "Cassimere," thread, buttons, tape, etc. As was the prevailing custom of his day, this merchandise was worked up for him by an Elizabethtown tailor into a suit of clothes made specially for the occasion.

Anon.

Rehabilitating the Father of Abraham Lincoln

Editor The Chronicle—Sir: It is my desire in writing this letter to correct in the public mind a wrong impression as to the character of Abraham Lincoln's ancestors.

Probably no man in history has been more abused than Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln. He has been labeled as "shiftless and improvident," "a migratory squatter without strength of character," "a man who could neither read nor write," "an idler, without ambition for himself or his children."

Contrary to textbooks and popular biographies, evidence has been found revealing Thomas Lincoln as descended from an old and distinguished family—a family of at least moderate wealth, certain social distinction, and very definite political prestige. Instead of being a squatter, Thomas owned all his homes and other real estate and was in good standing with the local merchants. Thomas went to work as a day laborer, then a carpenter. He apparently was a hard worker and thrifty, for he bought four different farms and until he became an old man prospered as much as the average pioneer.

These records show that he was directly related to the famous Lincoln family of New England, one of his kinsmen being a Governor of Massachusetts, another a Governor of Maine and a third Thomas Jefferson's Attorney General. His own grandfather, Abraham Lincoln Sr., was a prominent citizen and owner of 5544 acres of Kentucky land when massacred by Indians in 1786. His widow lost most of the land through faulty land titles.

In denial of the charge that Thomas Lincoln was illiterate, a court document signed by him in 1803, six years before the President's birth, has been found.

I am convinced, however, that much additional data never before published can yet be found and I would appreciate receiving from any of your readers familiar with Lincoln's life any information that would throw further light on Lincoln's parentage.

LOUIS A. WARREN,
Director Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 24, 1932.

BLAISLEE

Abraham Lincoln's Ancestors

To the Editor of the Public Ledger:

Sir—It is my desire in writing this letter to correct in the public mind a wrong impression as to the character of Abraham Lincoln's ancestors.

Probably no man in history has been more abused than Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln. He has been labeled as "shiftless and improvident," "a migratory squatter without strength of character," "a man who could neither read nor write," "an idler, without ambition for himself or his children."

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Although I have been engaged in Lincoln research for more than ten years, the last four have been devoted almost exclusively to examination of Lincoln's ancestry. This has come about as a result of a commission given to Paul Manship, noted sculptor, to execute a statue of Lincoln for a plaza in Fort Wayne, Ind. He was asked to depict Lincoln as a Hoosier youth of 21, an age at which no photograph of Lincoln exists. To get the data that would enable him to portray Lincoln as a youth, I collaborated with Mr. Manship in search of all available records, and it was in this search that we found the evidence of the real Thomas Lincoln. So the Manship statue, which is to be dedicated September 16 with Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde as principal speaker, portrays young Lincoln as a clean-cut, lithe-limbed frontiersman such as might be the son of a sturdy pioneer rather than a shiftless, indolent rover.

I am now convinced, however, that any additional data never before published can yet be found, and I would appreciate receiving from any of your readers familiar with Lincoln's life any information that would throw further light on Lincoln's parentage.

LOUIS A. WARREN.
Director, Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.
Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 26, 1932.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 197 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA January 16, 1933

LINCOLN'S RESPECT FOR HIS FATHER

The accusation that Abraham Lincoln failed to show proper filial affection for his father is a charge often preferred, not only by those who would discredit the president, but also by his admirers. As January 17th is the anniversary of Thomas Lincoln's death, which occurred in 1851, it seems timely to review, in this number of Lincoln Lore, some of the evidence which has been submitted to support these claims.

Early biographers had little respect for Thomas Lincoln; in fact he was often called the putative father of the president. Herndon and Lamon both contributed much to this theory, and this alleged unnatural relationship is the basis for the traditional barrier between father and son. The supposed cruelty with which Thomas Lincoln is said to have treated Abe as a boy is wholly dependent on one incident when Thomas Lincoln punished his son.

Careful students of Lincoln's parentage now have been able to discredit the false gossip about Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, circulated so widely in early days. With Thomas Lincoln emerging as an honorable pioneer of more than average attainment, the charge of noncompatibility between Thomas and his son, Abraham, loses its chief support.

The misunderstanding about the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and his father in later years is due to the intervention of John D. Johnston, his stepbrother, who with his whole family took up his residence with Thomas Lincoln and proceeded to live on what the old gentleman could acquire.

It is evident from Lincoln's correspondence with Johnston that this stepbrother was continually appealing to Lincoln for financial aid. In 1848, while Lincoln was in Congress, he received a double appeal from the Coles County home of his father. Both letters asked for money. The one bearing the name of Thomas Lincoln requested twenty dollars "to save his land," while Johnston wanted eighty dollars, evidently to pay off some of his personal indebtedness.

It is said that Abraham Lincoln just a few months before had been obliged to borrow money to take care of the expensive trip to Washington, and could ill afford to spare money at this time, but he replied to his father's request, in part, as follows: "I very cheerfully send you the twenty dollars which sum you say is necessary to save your land from sale." He then expressed some surprise that the title to Thomas Lincoln's land was in jeopardy and concludes "Before you pay it, it would be well to be sure that you have not paid it or, at least, that you cannot prove you have paid it."

Those who have felt that Abraham Lincoln mistrusted his father should read the letter which was written to Johnston at the same time. It is evident that Lincoln in writing to his father tried to reveal in as tactful a way as possible that he understood the pressure which Johnston was using. Johnston at this time was thirty-three years of age, and Thomas Lincoln was seventy-two.

On February 23, 1850, Lincoln wrote to Johnston about a mail contract which Johnston wanted to secure. Lincoln said, "I have made out a bid for you at $120, guaranteed it myself, got our P. M. to certify it, and sent it on." The ultimate outcome of this deal we do not know, but it is evident there was no way for Johnston to lose anything.

In January, 1851, Johnston began another drive on Lincoln. It is very likely that Lincoln's father had been conveniently ill many times, as far as Johnston was concerned. On January 1, 1851, Lincoln received word from one of the other members of the family that his father was really seriously ill. The next day Lincoln wrote to Johnston. The body of the letter follows:

"I received both your letters, and although I have not answered them, it is not because I have forgotten them, or been uninterested about them, but because it appeared to me that I could write nothing which would do any good. You already know I desire that neither father nor mother shall be in want of any comfort, either in health or sickness, while they live; and I feel sure you have not failed to use my name, if necessary, to procure a doctor, or anything else for father in his present sickness. My business is such that I could hardly leave home now, if it was not as it is, that my own wife is sick-a-bed. (It is a case of baby-sickness, and I suppose is not dangerous.) I sincerely hope father may recover his health, but, at all events, tell him to remember to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of a sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads, and He will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in Him. Say to him that if we could meet now it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant, but that if it be his lot to go now, he will soon have a joyous meeting with many loved ones gone before, and where the rest of us, through the help of God, hope ere long to join them."

Three distinct subjects are discussed in the body of this letter, all contained in one paragraph. The first two sentences discuss the ever present money question. One must conclude after reading this that Lincoln had made clear that his name could be used to secure funds or professional services for his parents at any time of emergency.

In the introductory paragraph of the letter it is made plain that Johnston did not expect Lincoln to visit his father at this time, and this question Lincoln takes up in the third and fourth sentences printed above. There are those who will never forgive Abraham Lincoln for not going immediately to his father's bedside upon learning that he was ill. These critics are unaware, evidently, that Abraham Lincoln had illness in his own home at the time. On December 2, three weeks before Abraham Lincoln learned of his father's illness, William Wallace Lincoln was born. The Lincolns had lost one of their children by death some months before, and they would be especially anxious for the welfare of this new baby. It was over one hundred twenty-five miles to his father's home, by rail, on slow trains, and with two uncertain connections to make before reaching Charleston, where conveyance would have to be secured for the drive into the country. With his wife "sick-a-bed", as he says in his letter, it does not seem that Abraham Lincoln should have been expected to spend an indefinite period away from home, with the possibility of a long visit. Thomas Lincoln died on January 17, five days after Abraham Lincoln had written to Johnston.

In the last three sentences of the main paragraph, Lincoln addresses himself to the theme of consolation, yet it is in this sacred and heartfelt testimonial that some people have found what they consider to be positive evidence that Lincoln and his father were at enmity.

In order to draw any such conclusions two flagrant violations of interpretation must be made. First, a thought foreign to the general theme of the three sentences (clearly a paragraph in our modern method of division) must be introduced. Second, the last sentence must be cut in two at the first conjunction and the contrast Lincoln is drawing between sorrow and joy completely ignored.

One cannot believe that Abraham Lincoln would stop abruptly in the midst of such a sublime appeal to introduce a note of bitterness, or request that his father be reminded in his dying hour of any traditional discord between them.

As a deathbed scene is usually "more painful than pleasant," and a place of reconciliation rather than retribution, there is no good reason for concluding that there is evidence in this letter, supporting the supposition that ill will existed between father and son. Of course, if one still holds to the groundless theory that Thomas Lincoln was not the real father of the president, it does make a good climax to an imaginative life-long enmity between the two, and, from the writer's viewpoint, this is the motive behind all the controversy over this question.

Nation Pays Tribute to Lincoln On One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Anniversary of His Birth in 1809

Census of 1810 Lists Him as "One White Male Under 10 Years of Age."

By DON CHAMBERLAIN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Feb. 12—The nation whose first official notice of Abraham Lincoln listed him in an 1810 census as "one while male under 10 years of age," turned to his great marble tomb today to honor his 125th birthday anniversary.

The routine census phrase began official references which traced a career of all that was mortal and immortal of the Civil war president who was born in a crude Kentucky log cabin.

The census listed four members of the Lincoln family, a United Press research revealed. Abraham was not classified by name. His father, Thomas, was head of the family and lived in Hardin county, Kentucky. The census report listed him as "between the ages 26 and 45." Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother, also was listed according to the same age classification, while a daughter, Sarah, was listed as "female under 10 years of age."

The ceremonies today were in observance of a birthday anniversary showing that Abraham Lincoln was actually one year old at the time of the 1810 census.

Among the mass of Lincoln data assembled in the town which he left to become president and in which he is buried was also Lincoln's autobiographical sketch with the following history of his birth:

"I was born February 12th, 1809, in then Hardin county, Kentucky, at a point within the new county of Largue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgen's mill now is... it was on Holin creek."

The Lincoln family had moved in 1808 to the farm on which Abraham was born.

Another time that Lincoln referred to his birth was when he himself wrote in the family Bible, a tradition of the pioneer families, the following:

"Abraham Lincoln, son of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln was born February 12, 1809."

LINCOLN'S FATHER EXPERT MECHANIC

3-30-34

Not Backwoods Ne'er Do Well, Authority Reports.

New York.—Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, was an expert cabinet maker and wheelwright, and not at all a backwoods ne'er-do-well, as might be inferred from some biographies of the Emancipator and his family, says Thomas H. Ormsbee, editor of "The American Collector," and an authority on antiques.

Several little known but well documented pieces of furniture have come to light which show that Thomas Lincoln was a craftsman above average in skill for his surroundings, says Ormsbee. The record book of the Primitive Baptist church at Gentryville, Ind., discloses that Thomas Lincoln built its first church, as well as the pulpit and pews.

"Had half-orphaned Thomas Lincoln not desired to learn a trade," says Mr. Ormsbee, "he would not, at the age of twenty-two, have apprenticed himself to Joseph Hanks of Elizabethtown, Ky. He learned three trades, carpentering, cabinet making, and wheelwrighting. He also met and married Joseph's sister, Nancy Hanks. Thereafter, although in keeping with the frontier custom, he was a farmer, his expert services were always ready and in demand."

In Elizabethtown some houses built by Hanks are still standing, and on some of them Thomas Lincoln did some of the work.

There are three perfectly authenticated pieces of furniture made by Thomas Lincoln, says Ormsbee. One is a desk set made for Doctor Crooks, physician of Gentryville; another is a walnut corner cupboard which was exhibited a few years ago at the Los Angeles Museum of History, and which now is back in Indiana; and the third is a walnut dish cupboard which was made for Josiah Crawford and now is in the Spencer county courthouse at Rockport, Ind.

Ormsbee gives high praise to the workmanship of the dish cupboard. He points out that when the corner cupboard was on display in Los Angeles it bore a card which said:

"Corner cupboard—made by Abraham Lincoln, with the assistance of his father. . . ."

Ormsbee suggests that if Abraham Lincoln worked on it at all, it was probably as apprentice to his father. He talked with Ida M. Tarbell, biographer and authority on Lincoln, and quotes her as saying that Abraham had little aptitude for tools; that records indicated he was glad enough to give up cabinet making for the less exacting occupations of rail splitting, trading, and storekeeping.

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TELEPHONE
WABASH 7788

February 4, 1943.

Doctor Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Doctor Warren:

I have documentary data which I think will settle the questions of the date of Nancy Hanks' birth and the date of Thomas Lincoln's birth.

About the time that Lincoln wrote the birth, death and marriage record in the family bible, and long before Dennis Hanks lost the portion of the record containing the date of the birth of Thomas Lincoln, the date of the birth of Nancy Hanks and the date of their marriage, copies of the record were made by two individuals.

John D. Johnston copied the bible record into his whisky account book. The last date of any entry in the book made by Johnston was in 1851 and his death occurred in 1854. Another copy was made by John J. Hall. That copy remained in the cabin long after Hall's death.

After Lincoln became famous, three of the visitors to the Lincoln cabin made copies of the bible record as copied by John J. Hall from the entries made by Abraham Lincoln, and these

copies showing the record as it was before the leaf was taken from the bible, contain the portion of the Lincoln record that was lost by Dennis Hanks and permit the reconstruction of the record with the dates of the birth of Lincoln's father and mother as agreed upon by the members of the Lincoln-Bush-Hall and Hanks families.

I have the items in my office and will be glad to show them to you, and will be pleased with the opportunity of a little visit if you have the time when in Chicago to drop in and see me.

Yours very sincerely,

Oliver R. Barrett

ORB:LK

February 5, 1943

Mr. Oliver R. Barrett
122 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Barrett:

I am sure Dr. Warren will be very happy to learn of your recent research. I am forwarding your letter to him at once and you will hear directly from him as to his arrangements to meet you.

Very truly yours,

MP

Martha Putnam, Sec'y.

Lincoln's Father Told Stories, Too —He Told One to Wife No. 2

By CARL SANDBURG

Of the many forces that helped shape Abraham Lincoln before he became President there has come to be increasing respect for his father, Thomas Lincoln. Each new and authenticated item of information about his father throws favorable light on him.

The present writer has seen in the collection of Oliver R. Barett of Chicago a scrap book kept by Nancy Hall, one of the grandchildren in the home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln at Goose Nest Prairie in Coles County, Ill. Some of the newspaper clippings pasted in this scrap book report stories and sayings among the Lincolns. Shortspoken, humble and reverent, was the blessing young Abraham often heard at table if this brief account in one newspaper is correct:

"John Hall, a near relative of Abraham Lincoln's stepmother, says that Thomas Lincoln returned thanks at every meal, always using the same words, 'Fit and prepare us for humble service, we beg for Christ's sake. Amen.'"

A story not yet included in any Lincoln biography is reported in this same scrap book of Nancy Hall. The evidence seems to be that Thomas Lincoln was a worthy husband of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln who died when he was a child, and of Sally Bush, the beloved foster mother. But the only account we have from Thomas Lincoln in this regard is in this scrap book. It reads:

"One day when alone with her husband, Mrs. Lincoln said, 'Thomas, we have lived together a long time and you have never yet told me whom you like best, your first wife or me.' Thomas replied, 'O, now Sarah, that reminds me of old John Hardin down in Kentucky who had a fine pair of horses, and a neighbor coming in one day and looking at them said, 'John, which horse do you like best?' John said, 'I can't tell, one of them kicks and the other bites and I don't know which is wust.'

"It is plain to see where Abraham Lincoln got his talent for wit and apt illustrations."

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LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 767 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA December 20, 1943

A LOG MEETING HOUSE AND A DEERSKIN RECORD BOOK

Although the Christmas spirit is fundamentally religious, the social and economic emphasis has had a tendency to steal much of the human interest approach to this festive season. The sounding of a religious note in this issue of *Lincoln Lore* should appeal to the reader at Yule time. Notwithstanding the aspersions cast on the parents of Lincoln and the attempt to remove the growing boy from any worthy environment, the fact still stands, thoroughly documented, that Abraham Lincoln spent the formative years of his life under the influence of pious and active members of the church. His father and his own mother, his stepmother and his sister. were all closely associated with the organized religious bodies in the community where Abraham Lincoln was growing to manhood.

The recent acquisition in southern Indiana of an old log meeting house, and a church record book bound in deerskin, may serve as a sufficient incentive to call attention to the primitive religious surroundings which contributed to the forming of Abraham Lincoln's character.

By legislative enactment the Old Goshen Church situated in Harrison County, Indiana, twelve miles south of Corydon, the Indiana state capitol, has just become one of the state's memorials. The act of setting it aside provides for the maintenance of the church building under the direction of the State Conservation Commission.

While this church is not directly associated with the Lincolns, it is a typical pioneer church of the Lincoln period, and it closely resembles the church in which the Lincolns worshiped. Moses and Squire Boone, who were related to the Lincolns through marriages, between the Boones and Lincolns in Pennsylvania, deeded the two and one-half acres of land on which the church building stands, and also the graveyard, to the trustees of the church. This church was also in the same county where Thomas Lincoln's brother, Josiah, lived. He was likely an occasional attendant at the church.

The church in the wildwood that Abraham Lincoln remembered, and, which he attended with the other members of the family for a decade, was known as "The Little Pigeon Church," located in Spencer County, Indiana. It was here that the pioneers sang their Christmas carols and it is also in the graveyard of this church that Abraham's sister lies buried, and not far away in an earlier community cemetery lies the body of his mother.

A record book of this old Pigeon Church, carrying on the roll the names of Thomas Lincoln, Sarah Bush Lincoln and Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, has recently changed hands and now passes from the trustees of the church to Hilbert Bennett, a member of the Spencer County Historical Society. This change of possession should assure the permanent preservation of the old book, which is probably the most valuable record book relating to the Indiana history of the Lincoln family.

The doctrines of what was called the Hard-Shell Baptist Church were clearly set forth in the front of the record book, and they must have been very familiar to Lincoln and definitely influenced his religious thoughts, some positively and others negatively.

Possibly the church ordinance that made the deepest impression on Abraham Lincoln was the primitive service of foot washing. An order on the record book for May 8 1819, states:

"The church agrees to designate or set apart one of their communion seasons to be administered in the evening after which they proceed to washing of feet." This comment comes from one who observed the practice of this primative ordinance. "It is a beautiful service—the brethren together washing one anothers feet, and the sisters to themselves likewise engaged. Those who are able to speak from experience testify to the spiritual helpfulness." Is it not likely that this humblest of all ordinances observed by the church may have left a lasting impression on the plastic mind of a boy who became one of the humblest men who ever lived?

It is difficult to find a more important source book in attempting to account for some of the early contributions to Lincoln's religious and moral precepts, than the old record book bound in deer hide, in which the doctrines of the religious body are clearly set forth. However, a book of more mercenary value, connected with the old church, may some day come to light.

A little known Lincoln story appeared in a letter printed in the *Kansas City Journal*, for January 22, 1909, contributed by Caleb A. Obenshain, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church, at Dewey, Oklahoma. This is Rev. Obenshain's story:

"I have knowledge of an incident which I have never seen in print. In the year 1866, while a teacher in Rockport Academy, in the southern part of Indiana, I was invited by the Methodist presiding elder, the Rev. J. J. Stallard, of the Rockport district, Indiana Conference, to attend and assist him in conducting a quarterly meeting to be held in Gentryville, Indiana. The meeting was near where Mr. Lincoln's mother lies buried. We visited the grave of Mr. Lincoln's mother and were taken to the cabin where the Lincoln family had lived. We then visited an old log church standing probably a quarter of a mile distance from either the cabin or the grave, an old log Baptist church, not then in use, but where my guide told me the Lincoln family had formerly worshiped.

"While in the old church I climbed up into the loft to familiarize myself with the building and discovered in a crevice between two of the upper logs an old faded memorandum book that had been used in other years. Opening it and scanning its contents I found this entry, where the church was charged 'Dr. To. 1 broom, ½ doz. tallow candles,' and signed, 'Abe Lincoln, Sexton.' To me it was an interesting discovery, but I did not then realize the value of that little entry in Lincoln's own handwriting, as I have realized it since. So after noting it carefully, I placed the book, yellow with age, back in the crevice where I had found it."

More important, however, than the doctrines of the church, spread in the old record book, or the messages of the ministers, was the Christian example of Lincoln's own father. Everyone who knew him has spoken kindly of him and only those who had no personal acquaintance with him have condemned him. He served in many capacities in the Pigeon Creek Church as the records reveal. He was appointed a trustee of the church, was on its original building committee, moderator at the church meetings, selected to interview members about discipline, etc. There is sufficient evidence in the old record book to prove conclusively that he was an earnest and faithful member of the congregation during all the years that Abraham Lincoln was approaching maturity.

One who often sat at the table in the Lincoln cabin home in Indiana has testified that Thomas Lincoln habitually asked grace at meal time, and these were the words he always used, "Fit and prepare us for life's humblest service, for Christ's sake, Amen." The child Lincoln was not unfamiliar with the Bethlehem story, nor deprived of the spiritual atmosphere accentuated with each succeeding Christmas.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
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POOR WHITE TRASH

The annual approach of Lincoln's birthday naturally calls attention to the conditions surrounding the infant when he was born. No greater injustice has been done to the Lincoln family than the "stagnant, putrid pool" theory of Abraham's nativity environment, propagated by William Herndon in the preface of his famous biography of the Emancipator. A printed statement made by President Woodrow Wilson, formerly a professor of history in Johns Hopkins University, that "Abraham Lincoln came of the most unpromising stock on the continent, the 'poor white trash' of the South," indicates how generally the social and economic backgrounds of the Lincolns have been misrepresented. No Lincoln was ever a "Poor White."

Unless one is acquainted with conditions existing among the class known as "poor white trash," he may not surmise just how low this class of "ne're do-wells" rank in the social structure of American life. Woodrow Wilson, as an instructor of history, must have known the status of the "poor white," so his public announcement that the Lincolns were associated with the group would carry all the implications that the term suggests.

The wide circulation of the story *Among the Pines*, published in both magazine and book form in 1862, has one chapter on "Poor Whites." Inasmuch as the author developed the story from his own personal observations, after visiting among this class of people, he speaks with some authority on the subject. It is also known that Abraham Lincoln read the book and conferred with the author about the accuracy of many of the episodes mentioned in the text. The chapter opens with the entrance of the author into a home of the "Poor Whites" which cabin he describes as follows:

"Entering the house, we saw, by the light of a blazing pile of pine-knots, which roared and crackled on the hearth, that it contained only a single apartment. In front of the fire-place, which occupied the better half of one side of this room, the floor was of the bare earth, littered over with pine chips, dead cinders, live coals, broken pots, and a lazy spaniel dog. Opposite to this, at the other end of the room, were two low beds, which looked as if they had been 'slept in forever, and never made up.' Against the wall, between the beds and the fire-place, stood a small pine table, and on it was a large wooden bowl, from whose mouth protruded the handles of several unwashed pewter spoons. On the right of the fire was a razeed rocking-chair, evidently the peculiar property of the mistress of the mansion, and three blocks of log, sawn off smoothly, and made to serve for seats. Over against these towered a high-backed settle . . . .

"The house was built of unhewn logs, separated by wide interstices, through which the cold air came, in decidedly fresh if not health-giving currents, while a large rent in the roof, that let in the rain, gave the inmates an excellent opportunity for indulging in a shower-bath, of which they seemed greatly in need. The chimney, which had intruded a couple of feet into the room, as if to keep out of the cold, and threatened momentarily to tumble down, was of sticks, built up in clay, while the windows were of thick, unplaned boards. . . . I had seen negro cabins, but these people were whites, and these whites were *South Carolinians*."

The author of the book carried on the following conversation with the woman of the cabin about the newly inaugurated President Abraham Lincoln. The dialogue between the author and the woman starts with the woman saying:

" 'What d'ye 'lect that darky, Linkum, President for?'

" 'I didn't elect him. I voted for Douglas. But Lincoln is not a darky.'

" 'He's a mullater, then; I've heern he war,' she replied.

" 'No, he's not a mulatto; he's a rail-splitter.'

" 'Rail-splitter? Then he's a nigger, shore.'

" 'No, madam; white men at the North split rails.' "

It will be observed from this conversation that Abraham Lincoln as President read in one book, at least, that there were those who held that he was of negro descent, but even then he was on a higher plane than the poor whites as we shall learn from a subsequent dialogue.

The author and his negro driver, Scip, due to a severe rain storm, found it necessary to spend the night in the one-room cabin, although the sleeping accommodations were limited. The author inquired of his "poor white" hostess:

" 'Where do you mean we shall sleep?'

" 'Ye can take that ar bed,' pointing to the one nearest the wall, 'the darky can sleep har'; motioning to the settle on which she was seated.

" 'But where will you and your daughters sleep? I don't wish to turn you out of your beds.'

" 'Oh! don't ye keer for us; we kin all bunk together; dun it afore. Like to turn in now?'

" 'Yes, thank you, I would'! and without more ceremony I adjourned to the further part of the room, and commenced disrobing. Doffing my boots, waistcoat, and cravat, and placing my watch and purse under the pillow, I gave a moment's thought to what a certain not very old lady, whom I had left at home, might say when she heard of my lodging with a grass-widow and three young girls, and sprang into bed. There I removed my unmentionables, which were still too damp to sleep in, and in about two minutes and thirty seconds sunk into oblivion.

"A few streaks of grayish light were beginning to creep through the crevices in the logs, when a movement at the foot of the bed awakened me, and glancing downward I beheld the youngest girl emerging from under the clothes at my feet. She had slept there, 'cross-wise,' all night. A stir in the adjoining bed soon warned me that the other feminines were preparing to follow her example; so, turning my face to the wall, I feigned to be sleeping. Their toilet was soon made, when they quietly left Scip and myself in possession of the premises."

The author's driver on this trip was a colored man by the name of Scip, already mentioned. The conversation between Scip and the author, relative to the poor white trash with whom they had spent the night, is here reproduced:

" 'Scip, what did you think of our lodgings?'

" 'Mighty pore, massa. Niggas lib better'n dat.'

" 'Yes,' I replied, 'but these folks despise you blacks; they seem to be both poor and proud.'

" 'Yas, massa, dey'm pore 'cause dey wont work, and dey'm proud 'cause dey'r white. Dey wont work 'cause dey see de darky slaves doin' it, and tink it am beneaf white folks to do as de darkies do. Dis habin' slaves keeps dis hull country pore.'

" 'Who told you that?' I asked, astonished at hearing a remark showing so much reflection from a negro.

" 'Nobody, massa; I see it myseff.'

" 'Are there many of these poor white around Georgetown?'

" 'Not many 'round Georgetown, sar, but great many in de up-country har, and dey'm all 'like—poor and no account; none ob 'em kin read, and dey all eat clay.'

" 'Eat clay!' I said; 'What do you mean by that?'

" 'Didn't you see, massa, how yaller all dem wimmin war? Dat's 'cause dey eat clay. De little children begin 'fore dey kin walk, and dey eat it till dey die; dey chaw it like 'backer. It makes all dar stumacs big, like as you seed 'em, and spiles dar 'gestion. It'm mighty onhealfy.'

" 'Can it be possible that human beings do such things! The brutes wouldn't do that.'

" 'No, massa, but dey do it; dey'm pore trash. Dat's what de big folks call 'em, and it am true; dey'm long way lower down dan de darkies.' "

Post-Dispatch St Louis 2-12-62

The Father of Abraham Lincoln

The Mirror of Public Opinion

Some biographies try to glorify son by condemning father, but story of Thomas Lincoln's improvidence is not true, writer says; traces his life in Illinois; President's father worked hard and paid his debts; not a good manager of property, he was a good neighbor.

From a Zeta Psi Address at the University of Illinois by Charles H. Coleman, Professor of Social Science, Eastern Illinois State College

Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, has been the victim of those biographers of his son who have sought to emphasize the contrast between the humble cabin near Hodgenville and the White House. Many have sought to glorify the son by condemning the father. He has been depicted as lazy, improvident, dull and poverty-stricken.

While Thomas Lincoln was poor, he was not poverty-stricken. In his moves to Indiana and Illinois he left no unpaid debts behind. He was no landless vagrant. From his marriage in 1806 to his death in 1851, Thomas Lincoln occupied eleven homes. He owned, or at least he paid for, all but two of them.

Thomas Lincoln left Indiana for Illinois in March 1830. After one year in Macon county he moved to Coles county, where relatives of his wife lived. He settled on a 40-acre tract of public land in the Buck Grove neighborhood. With neighborhood assistance he erected a cabin, probably late in May 1831. This was Thomas Lincoln's only experience as a squatter. It was a common practice. Some of his neighbors also were living on unentered public lands.

80 Acres and Independence

That summer Abraham visited his father and stepmother for a few weeks before going on to New Salem. It is very unlikely that he assisted in the erection of the Buck Grove cabin, which probably had been completed some weeks before his arrival. Nor is it likely that Abraham had any part in the erection of any of Thomas Lincoln's other Coles county cabins.

The Buck Grove home was the first of five in Coles county for Thomas Lincoln. His last move was in 1840, when he acquired by exchange with Reuben Moore, a neighbor, the 80-acre "Goosenest Prairie" farm where he died in 1851.

These moves involved a series of land transactions amounting altogether to 240 acres, for which Thomas paid $327. He sold 120 acres for $362.50. This does not include 40 acres he sold to his son Abraham in 1841 for $200, which was virtually a gift, as Thomas retained the use of it until his death. When he died Thomas Lincoln owned the 80-acre farm on which he lived.

Why did Thomas exchange 80 acres with Reuben Moore in 1840? The acreage land he gave up is for the most part level prairie, much more valuable today than the rolling farm he acquired. Did he get the worst of the deal? In more than a century since the exchange the level prairie has been improved land, while erosion has injured the rolling land.

Good Bargain for 1840

Since present-day land values give no fair picture of 1840, the writer had the aid of his colleague, Dr. Byron Barton of the geography department of college, who surveyed the soil on both plots. He concluded that Thomas Lincoln showed good judgment. Dr. Barton reported:

"The 80 acres which Thomas Lincoln had obtained by public land entry was largely upland prairie land. Numerous swales are found which even with modern methods of land drainage are difficult to farm in rainy years. He undoubtedly found farming this wet prairie land a very trying task."

The land Thomas Lincoln received in exchange "was a well-drained forest soil and contained only three small areas of wet prairie." Thomas probably had viewed this well-drained and more easily worked land with envious eyes, and was happy to give Moore his adjoining 80 acres in exchange for it. He "could not see that agriculture techniques would some day make his decision appear erroneous." Thomas Lincoln did not make a poor bargain.

Thomas was not a good financial manager. His fondness for his stepson John D. Johnston led him into repeated difficulties. Thomas was a defendant in five law suits in Coles county, and lost four. In four of the five, Johnston was involved in the original obligation.

The first of these cases began in March 1835, when Lincoln, Johnston, Dennis F. Hanks, Squire Hall and one William Moffett signed a one year lease on a saw and grist mill. They were to pay $220.12½, not more than $50 of which might be paid by repair to the mill. Payments totaling $85.25 were made, of which $50 was repair work. Suit for the unpaid balance was brought in June 1836. In October, Lincoln, Johnston, Hanks and Hall confessed a judgment against them of $138.67. Moffett, the fifth partner, had disappeared.

Problem of Four Partners

Since Thomas was a carpenter, and had worked on a mill in Kentucky, it is reasonable to suppose that he contributed the $50 worth of repair work. If the other four partners had done as much work, the mill would have been a success, and the $220 due could have been paid. The failure of Thomas' milling venture probably was due to lazy partners.

In May 1849, Thomas became ill. In response to an urgent summons from Johnston, Abraham came from Springfield at a very inconvenient time. He was seeking appointment as General Land Office Commissioner, and his presence was needed in Washington. He delayed his trip east until June 10. The appointment went to another.

It may have been that Lincoln's concern about his father cost him the appointment. What effect would four years in Washington as an officeholder have had on Abraham Lincoln's subsequent career?

Thomas Lincoln recovered in 1849, but died on Jan. 17, 1851. Abraham, notified of his father's later illness, was unable to come because of the recent birth, on Dec. 21, 1850, of William Wallace Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln was still confined to her bed.

A Message From Abraham

But Abraham sent a message to his father, in which he told him "to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of a sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads, and he will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in him."

Abraham reminded his father that if it was his lot to go now, that he would "soon have a joyous meeting with many loved ones gone before, where the rest of us, through the help of God, hope ere long to join them."

Poor management and generosity, rather than laziness, explain why Thomas Lincoln lived and died a poor man. A neighbor, Mrs. Andrew H. Allison, who lived in Coles county from 1834 until her death in 1923 at the age of 101, said of Thomas Lincoln: "A harder working man than Tom Lincoln never lived, but he was a poor manager."

He was a good neighbor. His melon patch was never closed to the children of the neighborhood. He was not a loafer.

Proof of Marriage of Lincoln's Parents Preserved in Kentucky

By CHARLES W. WHITE
North American Newspaper Alliance

Springfield, Ky. — Historical doubts concerning the paternity of Abraham Lincoln can be settled in the little Washington county courthouse here. In a dusty file room, off the county clerk's office, Thomas Lincoln's marriage papers are preserved for anyone to see.

Thomas Lincoln was Abraham Lincoln's father, and, according to local tradition, the paternity question that plagued the Emancipator arose from Lincoln's mistaken belief that his parents were married in Hardin county, instead of here.

In 1858, when political enemies circulated the tale that Lincoln was illegitimate, the harassed slander victim searched archives of Hardin county for a copy of his parents' marriage record. The fact was that the Lincoln family had lived in Washington county before Thomas Lincoln moved to Hardin county in 1810—and the marriage records remained here, had Abraham Lincoln only known it.

Glad to Show You

Though the first Lincoln family cabin in Kentucky was erected by Abraham Lincoln, sr., the president's grandfather, in 1782, the family moved about, as was common in pioneer times, and it is understandable that the president really knew very little about the early life of his parents.

Here at Springfield a polite girl clerk simply takes you into the record storage room. There is no charge.

On the wall, beside the door, is a picture frame protected by what appears to be an ordinary old-fashioned window blind. The clerk pulls up the window blind arrangement, and there is the Lincoln marriage bond, scrawled in ink on yellowed paper. The certificate of Jesse Head, Kentucky pioneer minister, who performed the marriage ceremony for Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806, also is displayed.

Later—and again at no cost—the county clerk's attaches give visitors a locally printed booklet which contains extracts from the Lincoln records, and many affidavits of pioneer citizens. One such affidavit, that of R. M. Thompson, Nancy Hanks' nephew, states that "the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, parents of President Abraham Lincoln, occurred in the same house or premises recently sold and conveyed by Mrs. Sallie Reed to Maj. D. W. Sanders of Louisville, Ky."

Boy Who Saw Wedding

The deposition of William Thomas Hardesty, born Apr. 30, 1837, declares that "I have often heard my father say that he knew Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks; that he remembered distinctly when as a small boy he slipped away from home and went to their wedding in the year 1806 when they were married by Jesse Head in the small log cabin which formerly stood on the east side of the Litsey and Valley Hill pike. They afterward lived in this cabin and it was here that Abraham Lincoln was born."

Hardesty also tells how Lincoln's grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, sr., was killed by Indians in 1788 while hunting with his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas. Some time after this Thomas Lincoln left Washington county to work here and there, but he returned to visit his brothers and to court a pretty blond — Nancy Hanks. She lived with her uncle, Richard Berry, sr., at that time.

After the death of her uncle and aunt, Nancy went to live with her cousin, Francis Berry, and it was at the Francis Berry home that Thomas Lincoln was married to Nancy Hanks. The Berry home, not a log cabin, was a two story building with board sidings which must have been pretentious for 1798, when it was built.

Marriage Bond

Under Kentucky law prevailing at that time, a bridegroom had to put up bond that he would go through with his intended marriage. This bond, in the sum of "£50 current money," signed by Thomas Lincoln, Richard Berry and John H. Parrott (the latter as witness) is what the clerk shows visitors in the tiny courthouse here. If Thomas hadn't married Nancy he would have had to forfeit the £50.

Jesse Head's certified list of marriages performed from April, 1806, to Sept. 25, 1806, contains the entry, "June 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks" — so Thomas didn't have to forfeit his bond.

Tourists hurrying through this picturesque part of Kentucky, often called "the Lincoln country," rarely see these documents in the old Washington county courthouse. Springfield, about 60 miles southeast of Louisville, on United States highway 150, is just an ordinary Kentucky county seat town, where new stores and filling stations stand next to weather beaten buildings and pioneer houses remaining from revolutionary times. There are no signs to call attention to existence of the historical papers, though the state of Kentucky mentions them in its official guides.

Everybody in Springfield knows about the Lincoln documents, though, and friendly townsfolk are glad to tell you where to go to find "the papers."

The whole region is replete with Lincoln lore, and historians find original material to this day. Among old-time Kentuckians here, arguments still go on about minor points in the fascinating legend of America's Civil war president.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Tuesday, February 12, 1952

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

NUMBER 1205 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA MAY 12, 1952

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE LINCOLNS

Many of the queries which come to the Foundation through the mail relate to the vital statistics of the Lincoln family. It has seemed timely to gather a few biographical facts about those closely connected with the President, placing the emphasis on the family relationship.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN—THE PRESIDENT

Second child and first son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Born—Feb. 12, 1809 Rock Spring then Hardin County, Ky., three miles south of the present town of Hodgenville, Larue County.

Married Nov. 4, 1842 Mary Todd, home of sister Mrs. Ninian Edwards, Springfield, Ill.

Died—April 15, 1865, 7:22 A. M. in house belonging to W. Petersen in Washington, D. C. Age 56. Death due to bullet fired by John Wilkes Booth. Buried in Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Ill.

THOMAS LINCOLN—FATHER

Third son of Abraham and (Bathsheba Herring) Lincoln.

Born—Jan. 6 (1776 or 1778) Linville Creek, Rockingham County, Va. (Tombstone gives date Jan. 6, 1778.)

Married (1st) June 12, 1806 Nancy Hanks, Beech Fork, Washington County, Ky.

Married (2nd) Dec. 2, 1819 Sarah Bush Johnston, widow, Elizabethtown, Ky.

Died—Jan. 17, 1851 (Tombstone gives date Jan. 15) near Farmington, Coles County, Ill. Age 75 or 73. Buried in Shilo Cemetery near Janesville, Ill.

NANCY HANKS—MOTHER

Only daughter of (James) and Lucy Shipley Hanks.

Born—Feb. 5, 1784 Hatt Creek near Brookneal, Campbell County, Va.

Married June 12, 1806 Thomas Lincoln, home of her guardian Richard Berry, Beech Fork, Washington County, Ky.

Died—Oct. 5, 1818 at Little Pigeon Creek, Spencer County, Ind. Age (35) years. Died of milk-sickness. Buried in private cemetery close by home, now included in Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Park.

SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON LINCOLN—STEPMOTHER

One of nine children of Christopher and Hannah Bush.

Born—Dec. 12, 1788 at Elizabethtown, Ky.

Married (1st) March 11, 1806 Daniel Johnston, Elizabethtown, Ky.

Married (2nd) Oct. 2, 1819 Thomas Lincoln, Elizabethtown, Ky.

Died—Dec. 10, 1869 near Farmington, Coles County, Ill. Age 81. Buried in Shilo Cemetery near Janesville, Ill.

SARAH LINCOLN GRIGSBY—SISTER

First child of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Born—Feb. 10, 1807 Elizabethtown, Ky.

Married Aug. 2, 1826 Aaron Grigsby, Spencer County, Ind.

Died—Jan. 20, 1828 near Gentry Store, Spencer County, Ind. Age 21. Death due to childbirth, infant buried in same grave with her at Pigeon Church Cemetery, Ind.

THOMAS LINCOLN—BROTHER

Third child and second son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Born—(1811) Knob Creek, Hardin County now Larue, two miles south of present town of Athertonville.

Died—(1813) Knob Creek. Age (2) yrs. Buried in Redmond cemetery near home. Grave with headstone marked "T. L." discovered several years ago.

MARY TODD LINCOLN—WIFE

Third child of Robert Smith and Ann-Eliza Parker Todd.

Born—Dec. 13, 1818 at Lexington, Ky.

Married Nov. 4, 1842 Abraham Lincoln, Springfield, Ill.

Died—July 16, 1882 Springfield, Ill., of apoplexy. Age 64. Buried in Lincoln Tomb.

ROBERT TODD LINCOLN—SON

First son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Born—Aug. 1, 1843 Globe Tavern, Springfield, Ill.

Married Sept. 24, 1868 Mary Harlan, Washington, D. C. Child of Senator James and Ann Eliza Harlan.

Died—July 26, 1926 Manchester, Vt. Age 83. Death due to cerebral hemorrhage induced by arteriosclerosis. Buried in Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

EDWARD BAKER LINCOLN—SON

Second son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Born—March 10, 1846 Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.

Died—Feb. 1, 1850 Eighth Street Home. Death caused by diphtheria. Age 4. Buried in Hutchenson's Cemetery, Springfield, Ill. Remains later moved to Lincoln Tomb.

WILLIAM WALLACE LINCOLN—SON

Third son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Born—Dec. 21, 1850 Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.

Died—Feb. 20, 1862 at Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C. Age 11. Death caused by acute malarial infection. Buried in Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Ill.

THOMAS (TAD) LINCOLN—SON

Fourth and youngest son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Born—April 4, 1853 Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.

Died—July 15, 1871 Clifton House, Chicago. Age 18. Death caused by pleurisy of a tubercular type. Buried in Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Ill.

MARY LINCOLN ISHAM—GRANDDAUGHTER

First child of Robert and Mary Harlan Lincoln.

Born—Oct. 15, 1869 Chicago, Ill.

Married Sept. 2, 1891 Charles Isham, London, England.

Died—Nov. 21, 1938, 19 East Seventh-Second St., New York City. Age 69.

ABRAHAM (JACK) LINCOLN—GRANDSON

Second child and only son of Robert and Mary Harlan Lincoln.

Born—Aug. 14, 1873.

Died—March 5, 1890 at No. 2 Cromwell House, Kensington, England. Age 17. Death caused by an infected abscess under one of his arms requiring delicate surgical operation. Body first deposited at Lincoln Tomb, Springfield, Ill., but later interred beside his father in Arlington National Cemetery.

JESSIE LINCOLN RANDOLPH—GRANDDAUGHTER

Youngest daughter and third child of Robert and Mary Harlan Lincoln.

Born—Nov. 6, 1875.

Married (1st) Nov. 10, 1897 Warren Beckwith, Milwaukee, Wis.

Married (2nd) June 22, 1915 Frank Johnson, Manchester, Vt.

Married (3rd) Dec. 30, 1926 Robert J. Randolph, Washington, D. C.

Died—Jan. 6, 1948 Rutland Vt. City Hospital. Age 72.

MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH—GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER

First child and only daughter of Warren and Jessie Lincoln Beckwith.

Born—Aug. 22, 1898 Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Living, but not married.

ROBERT LINCOLN BECKWITH—GREAT-GRANDSON

Second child and only son of Warren and Jessie Lincoln Beckwith.

Born—July 19, 1904 Riverside, Ill.

Married Mrs. Hazel Holland Wilson.

Living, but no offspring.

LINCOLN ISHAM—GREAT-GRANDSON

Only child of Charles and Mary Lincoln Isham.

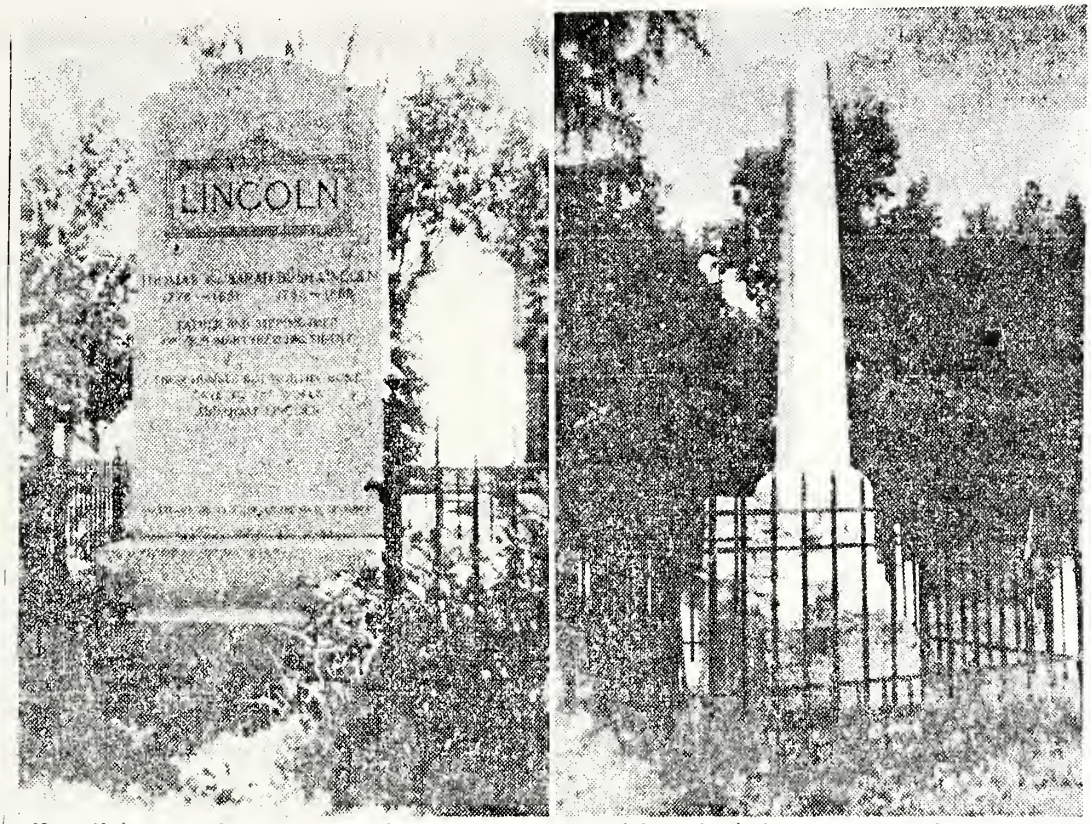
Born—June 8, 1892 New York.

Married Telhoma Correa.

Living but no offspring.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Feb. 8, 1953

Monuments to Lincoln's Parents



New (left) and old monuments that stand as a memorial to the father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln in Shiloh Presbyterian cemetery, near Charleston, Ill. New stone was erected by the Lions clubs of Illinois. Kiwanis clubs in Illinois and Iowa laid smaller stones around the monument and built the ornamental fence around the graves. The old monument, badly chipped by tourists, was put up in 1880 by Thomas Donnell, a Mattoon marble dealer, at a cost of $150.

Family From Virginia.

The father of Thomas Lincoln was Abraham Lincoln, who brought his family from Rockingham county, Virginia, to Kentucky about 1782, settling east of Louisville. After the father was killed by an Indian, the family of three boys and two girls had a hard struggle, and young Thomas had, when he was about grown, traveled around a good deal, as he did in later life. He learned to be a carpenter and cabinet maker and in 1806, he was the owner of 238 acres on Mill Creek, eight miles north of Elizabethtown, Ky. He had paid cash for it, too. The couple lived for a while in a crude cabin which Thomas built in town on two lots which he had purchased.

For the rest of his life, Thomas Lincoln roved from one place to another, always hoping for good luck and enduring one misfortune after another. The Sinking Spring Farm, where his illustrious son was born, the little home on Knob Creek, the 14 years in Indiana where the frail Nancy Hanks died and where Sarah Bush Lincoln came to mother the family, and the hopeful trek to Illinois where things would surely be better, are familiar to all students of American history. The last move was to Goose Nest Prairie, where the cabin stands in Lincoln Log Cabin Park. His son, Abraham, came to visit and to meet Offu[illegible] heart on a

The plans were not carried out, and it was many years after the gentle Sarah was laid beside her husband that George B. Balch, according to an old newspaper in Charleston, wrote a poem and read it to an audience which had gathered to stir interest in a marker for Thomas Lincoln. It ended with, "The grave of the father of Lincoln the Great, Is known by a hillock and boulder." Only $34 was raised. Robert Lincoln offered to pay the remainder, and a monument was erected in May 1880. It was 10 feet high, of Italian marble, in the manner of a Greek obelisk. Later, a more substantial but not a pretentious stone was installed a few yards away, by the Lions clubs of Illinois. Although the church and graveyard are not owned by the state, visitors from all over our nation register at the altar, and walk among the graves, stopping reverently to stand where lie the bodies of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln.

PARK HONORING FATHER OF LINCOLN POPULAR

42,000 Visited Log Cabin and Grounds Near Charleston, Ill., in 1952.

By ZELMA LARGE HOUSER

CHARLESTON, ILL.—The Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, nine miles south of Charleston, had about 42,000 visitors during 1952, according to the Division of Parks and Memorials at Springfield. There it is most appropriate to pay homage to the father of Abraham Lincoln and to honor the wise and kindly step-mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln. The reconstructed log cabin, the last home of the couple, stands among the trees and shrubs in the 86-acre park, with a pole barn nearby, an ashhopper, a grindstone, and other articles used by the pioneers.

Two fine parking lots, a picnic area, and other facilities add to the interest of the men, women, and children who enjoy the beautiful spot each year. The furnishings of the dwelling are authentic, including a ladder leading to the attic, a fireplace in each of the two rooms, trundle beds, candle molds, an enormous white hat such as were worn by the men of the 1830s and 1840s, and beds and other furniture.

President-Elect's Visit.

Sarah Bush Lincoln, after her husband's death in 1851, kept the log cabin at Goose Nest Prairie until 1865, and began at that time to live part of the time in Charleston and to spend some months of the year at the Moore home in the village of Farmington, now known as Campbell, a few miles west of the present park. There it was, as we all know, that Abraham Lincoln, starting for Washington as President-elect, made the trip on a raw February day to talk with his beloved step-mother and to kiss her good-by for the last time. Many of the neighbors and friends of the Lincolns gathered there on that day to say "howdy" to Abe, as they liked to call him. The records tell us that Abraham Lincoln visited the grave of his father on that day and arranged for a fitting memorial where his body had been laid, three miles northwest of the cabin, in which the Shiloh Presbyterian cemetery, once called the Little Garden Churchyard.

The Chicago Tribune
February 22, 1959

LINCOLN MISCONCEPTIONS

Winnetka, March 16 — Your front page story March 10 about the error in the Toronto Star's Lincoln story contains another and less excusable error of real importance.

Abraham's father, Tom Lincoln, was far above being a dreamer, and never a vagabond. He was a hard working and dexterous carpenter and cabinet maker, who thru the faulty land system of Kentucky lost three farms he had paid well for. He owned fine live stock and stood high on the tax rolls of his county in Kentucky. He was a church trustee and head of its building and remodeling committee. His stepdaughter said his only fault was his great "Virginia" generosity; he loved to dispense hospitality and his relatives by marriage took him for all they could.

Another statement I'm tired of seeing is that Lincoln [Abraham] was a freak or genius who talked and wrote like a master but had no education. He was self-educated, but better educated than most of today's youth.

As to the nightshirt story, Lincoln slept lightly in those nights when thousands of his boys and the South's, whom he also loved, were dying. Often he came out in his short red flannel nightshirt to hear the dispatches that came up from the nearby war office. He said once that he would gladly get up every night for such news as had come that night, from a victorious Union field.

When Herndon first saw Lincoln, he and 300 pound Judge David Davis were pommeling each other in a nightshirt pillow fight. Lincoln paused and without false modesty or apologies said: "I'm Lincoln."

C. D. MURPHY

The Middlesboro Daily News
July 2, 1959

According to local tradition, Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father, lived at Elizabethtown, Ky., as early as 1796. Hardin County records show that in 1804-05 he served on juries there, guarded prisoners and was assessed for a horse. Thomas and Nancy Hanks set up housekeeping there soon after their marriage in 1806. Seekers of Lincolniana during Kentucky's celebration of the Great Emancipator's 150th birth anniversary in 1959 will find a pilgrimage to this city promising.

Evansville Courier
February 12, 1960

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

History Slights Lincoln's Forebears, Reader Says

To the Editor of The Courier:

There is a new picture in the painting for Abraham Lincoln and his background. It seems the historians have always told the story of from log cabin to White House with all the pathos possible and everyone has agreed that only in America could this romantical thing of "from rags to riches" have happened. They have portrayed his family as illiterate, his father as shiftless. They have written the story of his life, crediting him with the "almost impossible."

At the Lincoln Sesquicentennial last year in Washington County, Kentucky, around the city of Princeton, the descendants of the Lincolns, Hanks, Berrys, and others, had much information. They talked freely and it is a well-known fact that while Thomas Lincoln underwent many hardships and disappointments after his marriage to Nancy Hanks, they were married in fine style June 12, 1806, at the home of Nancy's first cousin, Francis Berry, at whose home she was living at that time. The Berry home was a two-story log house, with glass in the windows. It is reported they owned slaves.

THEY relate how Thomas Lincoln rode up on his spirited horse the day of the wedding. He was dressed in the finest known clothing in "those parts" at that time. Early records of the storekeeper there show that he paid $8.75 for his silk beaver hat, $2.19 for his suspenders, and about $56 for the "cassimere, linen, brown Holland" from which his wedding suit was made.

He owned a good farm in Hardin County, which he had purchased in 1803 for 100 pounds. He had learned the trade of cabinet-making and was considered a rather well-to-do, successful young man for that time. He had held several minor political appointments and in the spring before his marriage, had made a trip to New Orleans with merchandise for a firm of Elizabethtown storekeepers, which netted him around $150 This was considered quite a handsome sum.

Everyone quit work and records reveal that the sessions of the Washington County Circuit Court were recessed on account of the Hanks-Lincoln wedding. All gathered to admire Thomas' finery. A most elaborate feast was being prepared under the trees in the Berrys' orchard, such as Bear meat, venison, wild turkey and ducks, eggs, maple sugar swung on big gourds, peach and wild honey, a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a pit and covered with green boughs to keep the juices in.

THE CEREMONY took place on the lawn in the front of the Berry home, the Reverend Jesse Head, minister of the Methodist Church, performing the rites before a large group of relatives and friends. Nancy, as both tradition and early records indicate, was gently reared by prominent and even prosperous relatives who enrolled their children in subscription schools of the day and bought books for their use at a time when books were both hard to get and expensive. Thomas' brothers and sisters married into some of the most influential families of Washington County. Their father, Captain Abraham Lincoln, a respected pioneer, had lost his life at the hands of a marauding Indian. He was, in truth, an unsung hero.

Why then do the old stories of Lincoln's illiteracy, destitution, and dishonor persist? Maybe because many people love a success story, no matter how untrue or how many untruths have been pressed into it to make it interesting —or shall we say dazzling? People want to believe that Lincoln was a man of unusually humble and degraded origin.

It is very unfortunate that both the United States Park Service, and the Kentucky Division of Parks, have unwittingly helped people to believe the legend of the lowly Lincolns. Near Hodgensville, the U. S. Park Service has erected a magnificent pink granite edifice over the rebuilt log cabin thought to be the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Of the thousands who go to view the tiny cabin, few realize that the dwelling as preserved, is 67 square feet smaller than at the time of Abraham's birth.

THE RAVAGES of time and mutilation that it suffered when the log structure was exhibited throughout the country, between 1894 and 1906, resulted as a 13 by 17 foot cabin. The original structure measured 16 by 18, which was the standard size of a one-room log cabin in those days. This was considered neither poorer nor more humble than the homes of thousands of other pioneer children who grew up along the frontier.

After Nancy's death, Thomas was burdened almost to desperation. With the two children to rear and his misfortune of acquiring faulty land titles, losing one farm after another, they suffered much and Thomas decided to try his luck in Indiana. It might have been better if he had stuck with his trade of cabinet making; but then it seems that Fate led him to Indiana and then Illinois where Abe had an opportunity to "get a break" and study law in his own humble, persevering way.

While Nancy was known as one who could read the Bible "better than anybody else" and could spin the longest and smoothest thread, she is better known—as her famous son called her — his "angel" mother.

I hope that everyone who reads this will look forward to the time when the world will believe as the good people in Washington County, Ky., know, that Abraham Lincoln is entitled to be known as a great man, not only by his merits, but because of his unquestionable and glorious heritage.

MRS. T. T. GABBERT,
Evansville, Ind.

Valuable Lesson

To the Editor of The Courier:

What would Washington and Lincoln say if they were here today? What would the founder and the keeper of our freedom say to America in the month of their birth in 1960?

Would one go back to the lonely thicket at Valley Forge to pray? Would the other pray in the Capitol while he longed for news from the battlefield? Would Washington still say, "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair. The outcome is in the hand of God?" Would Lincoln still say, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth?"

Would they join in an admonition to our country to go forward "with firmness for right as God gives us to see the right?"

What would Washington and Lincoln say if each could speak to his country on his birthday in 1960?

The very thought of it is enough to give us faith, hope, and a renewed determination to preserve and protect our way of life which they outlined for us so long ago.

It is still ours to value and appreciate our freedom. It is still ours to help, in a troubled world, to create and to guide a new birth of freedom.

CARL SHRODE

The Detroit News
February 12, 1960

BIRTHDAY BACKGROUND

Lincoln in the Land Records

By KENNETH C. CROWDER

EDITOR'S NOTE — Kenneth C. Crowder, who wrote the accompanying article for Lawyers Title News, formerly was in the Detroit office of the Lawyers Title Insurance Co. and during the war was in charge of builder priorities here for the War Production Board. At present he is manager of the Chicago National Title Division office. The article is reprinted here through the courtesy of the Lawyers Title Insurance Co. Detroit office.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, the son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, in a log cabin located on Sinking Spring Farm on Nolin Creek, three miles south of the present site of Hodgenville, Ky. His father had purchased this farm only two months prior to Lincoln's birth.

It is interesting to look into the title to this property. Land records in Kentucky, relating to the Lincoln birthplace property, go back to 1786. In that year a deed was issued for 30,000 acres of land which included the future birth site.

In 1802, Richard Mather bought half of this acreage and in the same year he agreed to deed 350 acres to David Vance, when payment in full had been made. Vance then transferred the property by endorsing the warranty bond to Isaac Bush.

The records show that Bush, by a second endorsement in 1808, transferred the farm to Thomas Lincoln (Abraham Lincoln's father) for $200. There was a fine spring of water on the farm which accounts for the names given it at various times. Besides the name of Sinking Spring, it was also known as Cove Spring and Rock Spring farm.

Reading further into the public records, it appears that Vance never paid Mather the full purchase price so Mather foreclosed against him for the $61.50 still due. By this time, Vance had moved to Mississippi, therefore Thomas Lincoln had to bear the brunt of the foreclosure.

Although Lincoln's father admitted he knew of the encumbrace, he did not remove it. In due course the farm was sold by court order for $87.74, which sum included the $61.50 plus interest and court costs. He thus lost Sinking Spring farm and his original investment of $200. It has been suggested by some historians and other observers that the loss of the birthplace by Lincoln's father started a series of Lincoln family migrations that eventually was climaxed by Abraham Lincoln and his family moving into and occupying the White House mansion in Washington, D.C.

These family moves took Lincoln from Nolin Creek to Knob Creek in Kentucky; then across the Ohio River to Little Pigeon in Indiana; to the banks of the Embarrass River in Illinois; then to the Village of New Salem on the Sangamon River; to Springfield, and on to Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River.

As mentioned above, a series of moves began after losing the birthplace farm. Thomas Lincoln and his family consisting of himself, two-year-old Abe, his four-year-old sister Sarah and their mother Nancy Hanks moved to another log cabin on Knob Creek about 10 miles to the northeast. Historians relate that Abe had no memory of his birthplace (which he never visited) but he did have some recollection of the Knob Creek place.

The Lincolns lived at Knob Creek for five years and then journeyed north across the Ohio River on a raft, and on into Indiana about 16 miles.

Here the family made a new home in the wilderness settlement of Little Pigeon Creek. In this area of southern Indiana, Abe Lincoln went to school and learned to "read and write and cipher to the Rule of Three." His sister, Sarah, married here and later died in childbirth. Nancy Hanks . . . also died here in the southern Indiana wilderness. Lincoln was greatly saddened by these two deaths as he was very close to both his mother and sister.

Years later in 1844, he returned to his childhood home for a short visit and wrote this poem:

When first my father settled here
Twas then the frontier line
The panther's scream filled night with fear
And bears preyed on the swine
Now 20 years have passed away
Since here I bade Farewell
To woods and fields and scenes of play
And schoolmates loved so well

In 1818, about a year after Nancy Lincoln died, Thomas Lincoln remarried (Sarah Bush Johnston) and Abe and the newly acquired family of Sarah Johnston moved to the Embarrass River in Illinois. Soon Abe left the family and journeyed to New Salem, a thriving little village on the Sangamon River about 20 miles north. Here he suffered his only political defeat at the hands of the people. He was appointed postmaster of New Salem and deputy surveyor soon thereafter and in 1836 he was sworn in as a lawyer in Springfield to which he moved a year later.

Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd, of Lexington, Kentucky, in November, 1842. Their first child, Robert, was born in August, 1843. Five months later Lincoln bought the only home he ever owned.

He paid $1,500 for a plain frame residence a few blocks southeast of the Springfield town square. This house still stands and is visited by thousands annually. In this house he and Mary Todd lived and their other children were born here. Lincoln curried his own horse, milked his cow, and cut and carried in the firewood at this home.

It was five days after his marriage to Mary Todd that Lincoln ended a letter to a Shawneetown lawyer in these words, "Nothing new here, except my marrying, which to me, is a matter of profound wonder."

At the time Lincoln bought this home he was earning $1,200 to $1,500 per year. This was an accomplishment when one considers the governor made only $1,200 and circuit judges $750. Fees for his legal services were small, ranging from $2.50 to $50, and averaging about $5 per case. When Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1847, history records that he leased his Springfield Home for $90 a year.

Lincoln, although self-taught, became one of the leading lawyers in Illinois. He had this to say about the practice of law in 1850:

"Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife, and put money in his pockets? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which would drive such men out of it."

Then at another time he said: "I like to see a man who is proud of the place in which he lives and I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

The next move which came after his election to the presidency of the United States is well known. This final move brought him and his family to Washington, D.C., on the banks of the Potomac. The White House was his last residence.

Chicago Daily News
February 10, 1967

Land Title Victim Chi. Daily News - Feb. 10, 1967

Historian 'Clears' Abe's Dad

A study of Kentucky court records suggest that Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas, was a victim of faulty land titles and not the shiftless ne'er do well that history indicates.

Lewis A. Warren, who heads a growing school of thought that history has treated Lincoln's father unfairly, checked the records to disprove a story first published in 1863 by William V. Thayer that Thomas Lincoln sold the family's Knob Creek Farm in Kentucky for 10 barrels of whiskey and $20 in cash.

Historian Warren has proved Lincoln's father lost the Knob Creek Farm—famous as the site of Abraham Lincoln's first childhood recollections—in a lawsuit of ejectment over a defective land title.

In fact, the Lincoln family lost three farms in Kentucky because of the then chaotic state of land titles.

THREE TIMES, Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, bought farms in Kentucky, and each time he had legal difficulties with the title to the land he thought he owned.

Abraham Lincoln himself touched on this in a famous campaign biography he prepared on himself for use during the Presidential campaign of 1860. He wrote:

"From this place (Knob Creek Farm) he (Thomas Lincoln) removed to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in the autumn of 1816, Abraham then being in his eighth year. This removal was partly on account of slavery, but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles."

WARREN noted that Thomas Lincoln secured titles to three farms which he purchased in good faith. The first one, when he came to sell it, had been reduced by acres and represented a monetary loss to him Warren found.

"The second farm he bought for cash and a small obligation" Warren wrote. "He later learned that the obligation was larger than had been represented and the holder of the title demanded money instead of merchandise such as the agreement called for.

The third tract he purchased was lost through a suit of ejectment.

"These land transactions were enough to make a man seek a country where he could be sure of a good title, and Thomas Lincoln had come to the conclusion that Indiana offered such an opportunity."

THE AMERICAN Land Title Assn., in pointing to this fascinating bit of Lincoln lore, notes that it was from such experiences as Lincoln's father suffered that the important American industry of insuring land titles has grown.

Even today, hidden hazards may attach to real estate. Faulty surveys, conflicting claims and deeds, forgeries, overlooked liens, conveyances by a minor or mentally-incompetent person, the false representation of a married person as single — all these and many more can cloud the title to land.

As a public service, the American Land Title Assn. has prepared a free leaflet, available to readers upon request, which details the shattering experiences of the Lincoln family. It may be obtained by writing The American Land Title Assn., 1725 Eye St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006.

Aug. 1967

peace terms. One Pennsylvanian wrote to a fellow Keystone-Stater, Simon Cameron, Lincoln's first Secretary of War: 'Why could not Mr. [Secretary of State] Seward have prepared the Inaugural so as to save it from the ridicule of a Sophomore in a British University?' — apropos of which Messrs. Randall and Current write: 'But Cameron's correspondent knew nothing of the actual response in England ... If anything, the second inaugural received even greater immediate acclaim in England than in the United States.' And Charles Francis Adams, Jr., (son of our Ambassador to England), veteran of the war and later a railroad man, thought that 'Not a prince or minister in all Europe could have risen to such an equality with the occasion.'

"Lincoln himself, in a letter of March 15th, wrote: 'I expect the [Second Inaugural] to wear as well as—perhaps better than—anything I have produced; but I believe it is not immediately popular. Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them.'

"Cannon boomed as Lincoln walked from the platform. That evening, in the East Room of the White House, he shook hands (according to the press) with more than 6,000 people — among them Walt Whitman, who presently wrote the greatest of American elegies on the death of the man who had written and on that day spoken the greatest of American inaugural addresses. At midnight the crowds departed, leaving the White House, said the Presiden's aide, Colonel Crook, looking 'as if a regiment of rebel troops had been quartered there, with permission to forage.'"
Inaugural Address. March 4, 1865. [Caption title.] 8vo leaflet, removed, (short marginal tear on both leaves, pp. 3, in morocco-backed case. [Washington, 1865.] $2,750.00

"Monaghan 600. The extremely rare first printing. "No American President had ever spoken words like these to the American People."

—Carl Schurz.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A portion of the rope with which David E. Herold was hanged July 7, 1865.

The Lincoln Conspirators

A Military Court in Washington, D.C. brought to trial eight people who were charged with conspiring to bring about the assassination and death of the Sixteenth President and the members of his cabinet and administrative staff. Of the eight prisoners, four were given a death sentence. These were Mrs. Mary A. Surratt, Lewis Paine, David E. Herold and George A. Atzerodt. The remaining four were given prison sentences. The death sentences were carried out on July 7, 1865.

In the Foundation's archives is to be found a rather gruesome relic — a piece of the rope used to hang Herold, along with a statement by W. H. Maxwell, the soldier who secured the fragment of execution:

> The Regt. I was in the 4th U.S. Veteran Vols. Hancock's Corps done duty around the old Capitol prison Washington where those connected with the assassination of Lincoln were confined formed a hollow square about the scaffold when they were hanged and Co. E of which I was one cut the bodies of Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Herold & Azerott down.
>
> W. H. Maxwell

Maxwell served three years in the Army of the Potomac, First division, being connected with the 6th Corps, Co., 65th N. Y. Vols. and Battery C. 1st Penn. Light Artillery. He also served one year in Co. E. 4th U. S. Vet Vols. Hancock's Corps. He participated in the following battles: Lees Mill, Siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, twice, Salem Heights, Wilderness, Harper's Ferry, Maryland Heights, Winchester and other small skirmishes.

After the war Maxwell was an examiner and appraiser of merchandise at the New York Custom House under President Arthur and also served as postmaster for Saugerties during President Grant's first term.

Robert Lincoln — Genealogist

Editor's Note: Robert T. Lincoln, the eldest son of the President, was often reluctant to discuss the lineage of his distinguished father, but in a letter dated November 25, 1904 to William E. Curtis, Chicago Record-Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., he was unusually accomodating.

R.G.M.

Pullman Building
Chicago

November Twenty-fifth, 1904

Dear Mr. Curtis:

Very many thanks for your letter of November twelfth, in which you give me some interesting and unknown details of the ancestry of my grandmother.

The blueprint copy of the Lincoln and Boone records in Pennsylvania, is very interesting to look at, and quite amusing in the close details of the births of children. It begins with the marriage of Abraham Lincoln, son of Mordecai Lincoln in 1737. It is my understanding that this Abraham Lincoln was the brother of my ancestor John Lincoln, who left Pennsylvania and settled in Rockingham County, Virginia, about 1750. His son Abraham, went to Kentucky in 1780, and my father was the grandson of the latter.

Very Truly Yours
Robert T. Lincoln

Wm. E. Curtis, Esq.
Chicago Record Herald Bureau
Washington, D. C.

Announcement

Lincoln Lore Index 1 — 1500

About November 1, 1967 there will be available for sale a *Lincoln Lore Index* extending from the first copy issued April 15, 1929 to the fifteen hundredth copy issued in February, 1963. The index will be a 56 page publication in offset printing of green ink and will measure 11″ x 8½″, the identical measurements of *Lincoln Lore*. The index will be in three divisions; namely, titles, subjects and persons.

The price of the index will be released at a later date. All orders will be handled through the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Hardin County Enterprise
Elizabethtown, Ky., Aug. 3, 1970

Now Hear This!

Thomas Lincoln Was NOT Shiftless

By MRS. T. D. WINSTEAD

In 1814, among 98 Hardin County residents listed in the same tax book with the father of the President, only 15 persons are shown to have possessed property of greater value than that of Thomas Lincoln. He owned two farms totalling more than 500 acres, two town lots in Elizabethtown and two horses, among other property in 1809 when his famous son was born.

Because these are recorded facts, it makes Thomas Lincoln the most maligned figure in U.S. history when writer after writer described him, "Thomas Lincoln was an ignorant, shiftless, worthless, illiterate man. . ." (Chafin). "Abraham Lincoln came of the most unpromising stock on the continent, 'the poor white trash' of the South. His shiftless father moved from place to place in the western country, failing where everybody else was successful . " (Woodrow Wilson). "He, (Abraham Lincoln) was reared in gripping, grinding, pinching, penury and pallid poverty, amid the most squalid destititution possible to conceive" (Peters). Hardly any biographer failed to vilify Thomas Lincoln in some manner.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, formerly editor of "Lincoln Lore," a bulletin of the Lincoln National Lite Foundation, rescued the reputation of Thomas Lincoln from the "stagnant, putrid pool" to which biographer W. H. Herndon had consigned him, when he embarked on his extensive search for the truth about Thomas Lincoln in the 1920's. The search lasted many years and covered several states and resulted in his book, "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood". The book is fully documented and proves conclusively that the character of Thomas Lincoln was presented to the American public in a slanderous way. The wonder is that time after time each writer perpetuated the myth.

Due to Dr. Warren's efforts it is possible to evoke the shadwy, much slandered image of a pioneer who fathered one of our country's greatest presidents in a much more favorable light.

Thomas Lincoln was born in January, 1776, in Rockingham County, Virginia, the son of a Revolutionary war officer, Captain Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Bersheba Lincoln. In the true spirit of all early pioneers, Capt. Lincoln brought his wife and five children to Kentucky about 1782, and to the Long Run section of southeast Jefferson County. Reliable records state that his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas, witnessed the death of Capt. Lincoln by Indians while they were planting corn on his land near Hughes Station in May, 1786.

Sometime before Oct. 14, 1788, the widow Lincoln took her family to the Beech Fork home in Nelson County-now Washington County near Springfield. Friends and relatives of the family lived in this settlement which has been established as a State Park (Lincoln Homestead Park). Here the family lived for the next 12 or 13 years. Here also lived the Reverend Jesse Head who was a skilled cabinet maker as well as Methodist preacher. "It may be a reasonable supposition that Thomas Lincoln learned his trade in the shop of the Rev. Jesse Head" (Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry in Lincoln Lore No. 1512).

The first documented evidence of Thomas Lincoln shows that at the age of 19 in 1795 he was mustered in as a member of the Fourth Regiment of militia, serving from 6-8-1795 to 7-7-1795.

His first recorded association with Elizabethtown is in the late spring of 1796 for he received 39 shillings from Samuel Haycraft, Sr. on 7-13-1796 for work on a mill site for Mr. Haycraft. From the tax records of Hardin County from 1795 to 1816 it is possible to locate Thomas Lincoln in Hardin County for most of that period.

In September, 1803, Thomas Lincoln purchased a 238-acre farm on Mill Creek from Dr. John Stater for the sum of 118 pounds "cash in hand paid". From that date his mother made this her home and his sister, Nancy and her husband, William Brumfield, settled in same locality. It is apparent from the records that Thomas Lincoln made his home on his Mill Creek farm or in Elizabethtown from this date until he purchased the 300-acre farm on the South Fork of Nolin in December, 1808.

As a carpenter and cabinet maker his services were in great demand as more and more pioneers came to settle in Elizabethtown and Hardin County. It is of record that he did the "joiners" work on the Hardin Thomas log house that the Lincoln Heritage Committee has pledged to restore. He built at least one log cabin in Elizabethtown and according to a legend in the family of Mr. John P. Pirtle of Howevalley, Thomas Lincoln built, or helped to build the house in which Mr. Pirtle now lives. An eye witness stated Thomas Lincoln owned the best carpentry tools in Hardin County and the records of purchase of the Bleakley and Montgomery Store in Elizabethtown at the time bears this out as he purchased many items of such nature from them.

It is reasonable to assume he was hard working and thrifty for after his marriage to Nancy Hanks of the Beech Fork Settlement in Washington County on June 12, 1806, he was able to build her a log house on one of the town lots he owned in Elizabethtown. Just such a log house as most pioneers erected and lived in at that time. Their first child, Sarah, was born here Feb. 10, 1807.

As a man of good standing in the community he served time and again on the jury. In 1803 he served as a guard for prisoners. In 1804 he was one of the petitioners for a section of road that became the Dixie Highway between Elizabethtown and Ft. Knox. He served as a patroller in the northwardly district of the county in 1805. Thus, we see him as performing his civic duties as well as being about the business of making a living. In March, 1807, he won a lawsuit for recovery of wages due him for preparing logs for construction of a saw mill.

That Thomas Lincoln was a skilled cabinet maker is attested by the many fine pieces of furniture still in existance and which have been authen-

ticated. Eight corner cupboards showing fine workmanship are known to have been made by him. One which bears his initials, T.L., and dated 1814 is in the J. B. Speed Memorial Museum in Louisville. A very fine one, made of cherry wood and beautifully inlaid, is owned by Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, editor of Lincoln Lore. A walnut corner cupboard with similiar decoration is in the Evansville Public Museum and another made of walnut is owned by the Edison Institute of Dearborn, Michigan. Another fine one of cherry wood is owned by Miss Minnie Patterson of Elizabethtown. Thomas Lincoln made other type furniture such as daybeds, chests of drawers, mantlepieces, tables, sugar chests, etc. Mrs. L. A. Faurest of Elizabethtown owns a cherry extension table that was owned by Abraham Lincoln and Graham Egerton of Elizabethtown owns a stand table believed to have been made by Thomas Lincoln.

Thomas Lincoln has been described by a granddaughter of Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln as follows: "He made a good living and reckon he would have gotten something ahead if he hadn't been so generous. He had the old Virginian notion of hospitality. Liked to see people sit up to the table and eat hearty and there were always plenty of his relations and grandmother's willing to live on him. Uncle Abe got his honesty and his clean notions of living and kind heart from his father."

Thomas Lincoln In appearance stood very erect. He was 5 feet 10 inches in height with large bones and strong heavy muscles and weighed about 170 or 175 pounds. His forehead was medium high and he had a straight nose in a rather broad face. He was always clean shaven. His eyes were gray or light blue and his hair black and coarse. He had a ready supply of humouous stories which he delighted to tell, and he was popular with all classes of people.

No document detrimental to the character of Thomas Lincoln has ever been found and the image that evolves is that of an industrious, sober, honest, provident family man. He was a victim of lax land laws and insecure land titles. Undoubtedly, this is the main reason he sold his property in Kentucky and immigrated to Indiana in 1816.

Source Material: "Lincolns Parentage and Childhood" by Dr. Louis A. Warren; Lincoln Lore Bulletins of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Editor, Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry.

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1596 | FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | February, 1971

Lincoln Historical Highway Markers In Kentucky

A paper bound book entitled *Guide to Kentucky Historical Markers* was published by the Kentucky Historical Society in 1969. It lists 976 markers of which twenty-eight deal with Abraham Lincoln (some markers mention him only by name), his family, collateral relatives, in-laws and associates. The index reveals that the surnames of Lincoln and Boone appear on more markers than those of any other noted families in Kentucky.

Kentucky's program of marking historical sites or incidents began in August, 1949. In March, 1962, Governor Bert T. Combs allocated state funds to broaden the program and assigned it to the Kentucky Historical Society. Today under the direction of Walter Allerton Wentworth the project is moving forward with remarkable accuracy and speed.

Although numbers appear on the markers to assist readers with a quick reference when using the guide, they are not consecutive which indicates that earlier markers have been abandoned. The texts of the Lincoln markers in this compilation for *Lincoln Lore* have been arranged alphabetically according to Kentucky counties. Since one or two have very little interest for the Lincoln student, the wording on the reverse side has been deleted. The texts of the two markers pertaining to Lincoln County are included because genealogists believe that President Abraham Lincoln and General Benjamin Lincoln may have had a common progenitor back in England.

The texts of the twenty eight markers, including a few statements with which the editor does not entirely agree, follow:

1003 SHELTER FOR LINCOLNS
(E. side Ky. 261, Hardinsburg, S. city limits, Breckinridge Co.)

In the autumn of 1816 the family of Abraham Lincoln, then 7 years old, migrating to Indiana, rested and recuperated for about three weeks in a cabin that stood here. Local residents gave them food. Lincoln route in Kentucky started near Hodgenville and went through Elizabethtown, Vine Grove, Harned, here to Cloverport, river ferry. Lincolns traveled by ox-cart.

73 LINCOLN FAMILY TRAIL
(Cloverport, US 60, Breckinridge Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, then a lad of 7, with other members of the Thomas Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River on a log raft ferry near here in 1816. The Lincolns were moving to Indiana.

552 JOSEPH HOLT
(US 60, 3 mi. E., Cloverport, Breckinridge Co.)

Six miles to the north are birth place and grave of Joseph Holt, 1807-1896. He was Commissioner of Patents, Postmaster General and Secretary of War in Buchanan's Administration, 1857-1861. Lincoln made him Judge Advocate General of the Union Army, 1862. Holt prosecuted conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln, 1865. He retired as Judge Advocate, 1875.

885 LINCOLN'S FATHER HERE
(Burkesville Courtyard, Ky. 61, 90, Cumberland Co.)

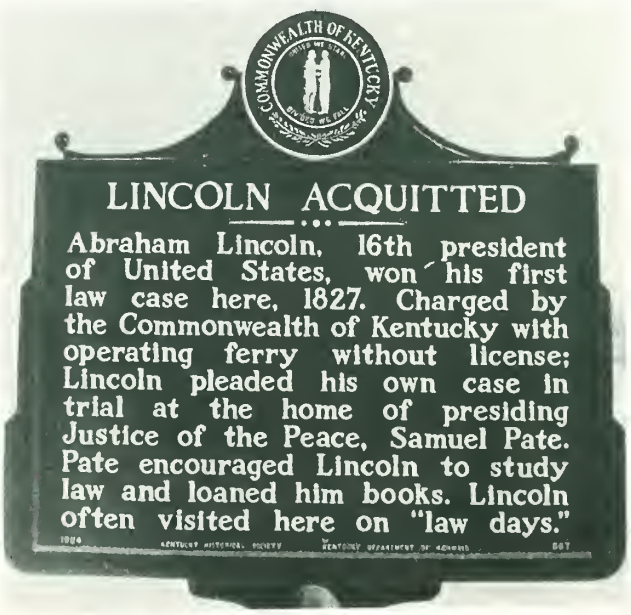
Thomas Lincoln made claim for land in Cumberland County in May, 1801. In Jan., 1802 and again in 1804 he was appointed constable. On Sept. 5, 1802, he was commissioned ensign in Cornstalk Militia of Cumberland County. Returned to Washington County. Married Nancy Hanks 1806. To this union Pres. Lincoln was born. Thomas brought to Ky. from Va. as a child, 1782.

70 CAMP DICK ROBINSON
(7 mi. NW of Lancaster, US 27, Garrard Co.)

Here in 1861 under authority issued by President Abraham Lincoln, General William Nelson organized the first camp in Kentucky for enlistment of Federal troops in the War Between the States.

1082 UNIQUE FATHER AND SON
(Greensburg, US 68 opposite "Old Courthouse," Green Co.)

Reuben Creel, Greensburg native, appointed by Lincoln as consul from U.S. to Chihuahua, Mexico, 1863.



Photograph courtesy of W. A. Wentworth, Chairman of Kentucky Highway Marker Program, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Highway Marker No. 667 located on Ky. 334, three miles west of Hawesville, in Hancock County.

Photograph courtesy of W. A. Wentworth, Chairman of Kentucky Highway Marker Program, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The Pate house (to which the highway marker refers) in Hancock County, Kentucky, where Lincoln was tried before a Justice of the Peace for allegedly operating a ferry across the Ohio River without a license.

Served until 1866. His son Enrique C., in turn, served as ambassador from Mexico to U. S., 1907-09. Reuben went to Mexico with Gen. Ward, Greensburg native, serving as his interpreter during Mexican War. Remained after war. Early home stands here. (Reverse not included)

719 LINCOLN'S MENTOR

(Ky. 61, 8 mi. N. Greensburg, Green Co.)

Three miles west, birthplace of Mentor Graham, 1800-86, "The Man Who Taught Lincoln." Sixty years a teacher. Green County 1818-26. After Illinois voted down slavery, moved to New Salem, 1826. There, from 1831-37, as tutor and friend, he had incalculable influence on Abraham Lincoln, his public life. Graham died at 86, South Dakota. Re-buried at New Salem, Ill., 1933.

846 LINCOLN'S LAW PARTNER

(Greensburg, old courthouse lawn, Green Co.)

Birthplace of William H. Herndon, 1818. Family moved to Illinois, 1820. An anti-slavery advocate and partner with Abraham Lincoln in practice of law, 1844-61. Herndon, Mayor of Springfield; State Bank examiner. After Lincoln's death, devoted life to biography of his friend. Wrote "Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life," 1889. Died 1891, Springfield, Ill.

667 LINCOLN ACQUITTED

(Ky. 334, 3 mi. W. Hawesville, Hancock Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of United States, won his first law case here, 1827. Charged by the Commonwealth of Kentucky with operating ferry without license; Lincoln pleaded his own case in trial at the home of presiding Justice of the Peace, Samuel Pate. Pate encouraged Lincoln to study law and loaned him books. Lincoln often visited here on "law days."

932 LINCOLN-HAYCRAFT MEMORIAL BRIDGE, 1936

(Elizabethtown at bridge, Hardin Co.)

Here along Severn's Valley Creek Samuel Haycraft, Sr. built mill raceway in 1796. Thomas Lincoln, father of Pres. Lincoln, employed in building it, received his first monetary wages when about 21 years of age. Abraham Lincoln, age 7, with his family on way to Indiana in 1816, crossed this creek about here and went thru Elizabethtown.

858 ROUTE OF LINCOLNS

(Vine Grove, Ky. 144, Hardin Co.)

In the autumn of 1816, Abraham Lincoln's family traveled this old pioneer trail through Vine Grove, established in 1802, when migrating from Knob Hill farm, Larue County, Kentucky, to Spencer County, Indiana.

833 HELM CEMETERY

(Elizabethtown, US 31-W, Jct. with Ky. 447, Hardin Co.)

This pioneer cemetery includes the graves of John LaRue Helm, who served two incomplete terms as Governor of Kentucky, and his son, Confederate Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who fell at battle of Chicamauga, September 20, 1863. Gen. Helm and Abraham Lincoln married half-sisters, Emilie and Mary Todd, the daughters of Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky.

136 LEXINGTON

(Lexington, North Limestone, US 27, 68, Fayette Co.)

Settled by Robert Patterson and companions in 1779. Major frontier town. Home of Henry Clay, Mary Todd, John C. Breckinridge; and of Transylvania College, College of the Bible, and University of Kentucky.

1001 ELLERSLIE

(US 25 & 421, Lexington Reservoir, Fayette Co.)

The home which stood on this site from 1787 to 1947 was built by Levi Todd (1756-1807), who named it for his ancestral village in Scotland. He was one of a party of hunters who named Lexington in 1775; first Fayette County clerk; aide to George Rogers Clark, 1779, Kaskaskia Expedition; Maj., Battle Blue Licks, trustee, Transylvania; grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln.

12 MARY TODD LINCOLN

(501 Short St., Lexington, Fayette Co.)

On this site Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln, was born Dec. 13, 1818, and here spent her childhood.

11 TODD HOUSE

(573 W. Main St., Lexington, Fayette Co.)

Home of Mary Todd Lincoln from 1832 to 1839. To this house in after years she brought Abraham Lincoln and their children.

945 ARCHITECT'S SHRYOCK

(149 North Broadway, Lexington, Fayette Co.)

"Best known surname in Kentucky architecture is Shryock." Family home, erected by Matthias Shryock (1774-1833), here. Designed first Episcopal church in city, 1814 and Mary Todd Lincoln home on W. Main. Son, Cincinnatus, born here, 1816. First Presbyterian Church, built 1872, considered his best. Also designed many homes. Died, 1888. Both buried in Lexington. (Reverse not included)

101 ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(1 mi. E. of Eastwood, US 60, 460, Jefferson Co.)

Two miles northeast of here Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was massacred by Indians in May 1786. Long Run Baptist Church, standing on the Lincoln land grant, marks the traditional site of the pioneers grave.

The original marker was erected by The Filson Club 1937.

174 FARMINGTON
(Bardstown Rd., Wendell St., Louisville, Jefferson Co.)

Historic residence completed by John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Abraham Lincoln was a guest here of his close friend Joshua Speed in 1841. Open to the public.

120 LINCOLN KNOB CREEK FARM
(6 mi. NE Hodgenville, US 31E, Larue Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, (1809-1865) lived on this 228 acre farm, 1811-1816. He wrote in 1860 "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place." A younger brother was born here.

827 LINCOLN'S PLAYMATE
(Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Ky. 84 Larue Co.)

To the west, in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, is the grave of Austin Gollaher, 1806-98. Lincoln, while president, once said, "I would rather see (him) than any man living." They were schoolmates and playmates when the Lincoln family lived in this area, 1813 to 1816. Gollaher is credited with rescuing Lincoln from flooded waters of Knob Creek.

774 COUNTY NAMED, 1780
(Stanford Courtyard, US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

For Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810. Born Mass. In War of Revolution took Mass. Regts. to reinforce New York, 1776; at Saratoga, 1777, cut Burgoyne's communications with Canada; 1778, command of Southern Dept. Commissioned by Washington to receive sword of Cornwallis at British surrender, Yorktown, 1781. Sec. of War, 1781-84. Led forces that quelled Shay's Rebellion.

860 LINCOLN COUNTY
(Stanford Bypass, Jct. US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

Benjamin Logan built Logan's Fort at St. Asaphs, mile to west, 1776. Kentucky County, Virginia, formed 1776. First land court, St. Asaphs 1779. Kentucky made into Lincoln, Jefferson, Fayette counties, 1780. In 1785 part of Lincoln taken for Madison and Mercer counties. Stanford named and made county seat, 1786. Records in courthouse from 1781, oldest in the state.

1109 CREELSBORO
(Creelsboro, Ky. 1313, Russell Co.)

Laid out, 1809, named for Elijah and Elza Creel, pioneers whose son, Reuben, served US in Mexico; his son Enrique served Mexico in US. An interpreter for Gen. W. T. Ward during Mexican War, Reuben stayed on there, was appointed US Consul, 1863, by Pres. Lincoln. Enrique was Governor of Chihuahua State, 1903 to 1906, and Mexican Ambassador to US, 1906 to 1909.

854 WASHINGTON COUNTY
(Marion County line, Ky. 55, Washington Co.)

The first county formed by first Assembly of Kentucky, 1792. Named for Geo. Washington. Springfield, county seat, laid off, 1793, by Matthew Walton; veteran of War of Revolution, legislator. Courthouse built in 1816, oldest used as such in state (1965). First settlers in area, 1776. Lincoln's grandfather came this part Ky., 1782; parents married in county, 1806. (Reverse not included.)

526 LINCOLN HOMESTEAD
(US 150, Ky. 55, Springfield Courtyard, Washington Co.)

The certified marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln to Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, is on file here in Washington Co. Courthouse. Here also preserved is full account of the wedding. Lincoln Homestead State Park, seven miles north, now marks the site of log house where marriage was performed June 12, 1806 by the Rev. Jesse Head, Methodist Pastor.

1038 JESSE HEAD HOMESITE
(Main St., N. of Courthouse, Springfield, US 150, Washington Co.)

On June 12, 1806 he performed the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, who, in 1809, became the parents of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S. Head, born in Maryland in 1768, "came a-preaching" to Kentucky in 1798. Cabinet maker, justice of peace, on Sundays he preached fearlessly. Moved shop to Harrodsburg, 1810, kept on preaching, began newspaper.

649 WOODFORD COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR GENERALS
(US 62, Versailles, Woodford Co.)

Maj. Gen. Charles William Field, 1828-1892, Confederate soldier, engineer; West Point, 1849. Frontier service in southwest to 1855, instructor in cavalry tactics West Point to 1861. Colonel 6th Virginia Cav. 1861. Brig. gen infantry brigade 1862. Opened battle at Mechanicsville; fought at Cedar Mt., 2nd Bull Run, in latter seriously wounded, never fully recovering, 1864, maj. gen. in command Hood's Texas div. Bore heavy part in battles at Cold Harbor and Petersburg. His division half of Lee's army and only effective fighting unit intact left to surrender at Appomattox.

Brig. Gen. James S. Jackson, 1823-1862, Union soldier, lawyer, Congressman, veteran Mexican War. Authorized by Lincoln, he recruited 3rd Ky. Cav. in fall 1861. For a time commanded Buell's entire cavalry. Commissioned brig. gen., assigned to command 10th Div. of Buell's army, July 1862. Leading troops at Perryville, he was killed Oct. 8, 1862. Forney wrote: "To die such a death, and for such a cause, was the highest ambition of a man like James S. Jackson . . . He was a Union man for the sake of the Union; and now with his heart's blood, he has sealed his devotion to the flag."

Maj. Gen. Eli Long, 1837-1903, Union soldier, graduated from Kentucky Military Institute, 1855. Frontier service against Indians until 1861. Organized 4th Ohio Cavalry as colonel, 1862. Commissioned brig. gen., 1864. Commanded brigade during Atlanta campaign, 1864. He led an assault at Selma, Alabama, March 1865, where his bravery inspired the troops in Union's greatest cavalry victory and for which he was breveted maj. gen. During the Civil War he was wounded five times and cited for gallantry five times. After war lived at Plainfield, New Jersey and is buried there in Hillsdale Cemetery. (Reverse not included.)

HORSES

Both Abraham Lincoln and his father could appraise the value of a horse. While a soldier in the Black Hawk War, Lincoln appraised his stolen horse and equipment at $120. While Thomas Lincoln in 1811 described an estray horse as follows: "... a gray mare 8 years old 14 hands high. Branded on the near thigh but not legible a scar on her off side with a dark spot on her neck on the off side under the main about the size of a dollar a sore Back trots natural appraised to $20."

The above description appears in an old Hardin County (Kentucky) estray book with entries from 1806 to 1815. While the Kentucky pioneers may have been at a loss for words concerning a lot of mundane things, they certainly knew how to describe the color of a horse. The nine hundred and six entries in the old estray book contains these different descriptive colors: bay, bright bay, dark bay, brown bay, dark brown, light brown, dun color, gray, dapple gray, dark gray, flea-bitten gray, iron gray, bright gray, bright iron gray, milk and caider (sic) color, sorrel, bright sorrel, brown sorrel, yellow sorrel, roan, red roan, strawberry roan, yellow, white and flea-bitten white.

The Lincoln Highway

Editor's Note: With today's super-highway system, the old Lincoln Highway laid out in 1913 is all but forgotten. Extending from New York, N. Y. to San Francisco, California, a distance of 3331.5 miles, its construction cost in 1928 amounted to more than $100,000,000 not including the $50,000,000 which was spent upon its 250 miles of city streets.

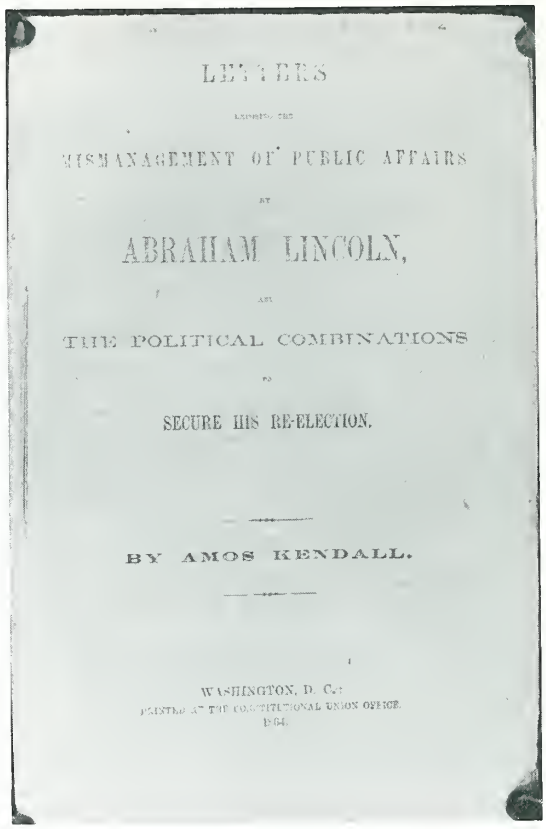
Doubleday's Encyclopedia, 1940, provides further details which are reprinted with permission.

"America's transcontinental Main Street — the greatest automobile road in the world. It was laid out in 1913 by the Lincoln Highway Association as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Beginning at Times Square, N. Y. City, this highway terminates in Lincoln Park, San Francisco, overlooking the Golden Gate. Throughout its length of 3331.5 m. it is a well-built road, and no tolls are charged upon any portion of it. Taking into consideration the topography of the country it is the most direct route to the coast. The highway is marked with a red, white, and blue marker bearing a large letter L on a white field. Up to 1928 more than $100,000,000 had been spent on the Highway, exclusive of perhaps $50,000,000 spent upon the 250 m. of city streets which are part of the system. The road has been financed by local appropriations of the cities, counties, and states traversed, assisted by contributions made by men and companies interested in highway improvements. The Highway passes through the following towns in eleven states: Jersey City, Newark and Trenton, N. J.; Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Bedford, Ligonier, Pittsburgh, and Beaver, Pa.; East Liverpool, Canton, Ashland, Mansfield, Bucyrus, and Lima, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ligonier, Goshen, Elkhart, South Bend, and Valparaiso, Ind.; Chicago Heights, Aurora, Geneva, Rochelle, Dixon, and Fulton, Ill.; Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Jefferson, and Council Bluffs, Ia.; Omaha, Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and Big Springs, Neb.; Cheyenne, Laramie, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Evanston, Wyo.; Salt Lake City, Garfield, Tooele, Clover, and Ibapah, Utah; Ely, Eureka, Austin, Fallon, Reno, and Carson City, Nev.; Truckee, Placerville, Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland, and San Francisco, Cal.

For more detailed information concerning "The Lincoln Highway" see *Lincoln Lore* No. 536, July 17, 1939.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This bronze marker (4" in diameter) with three flanges for embedding in concrete, was used to mark the Lincoln Highway in the vicinity of Fort Wayne, Indiana. It bears the following inscription: THIS HIGHWAY DEDICATED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The head of Lincoln appears to have been copied from a centennial medallion designed by B. L. Pratt.



LETTERS

EXPOSING THE

MISMANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BY

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

AND

THE POLITICAL COMBINATIONS

TO

SECURE HIS RE-ELECTION.

BY AMOS KENDALL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:
PRINTED AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL UNION OFFICE.
1864.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

In 1864 Amos Kendall, journalist and former postmaster general, was a severe critic of the Lincoln Administration, and his 46 page pamphlet (M 302) has long been on our want list. Recently a copy has been acquired by the Foundation, and Kendall's series of 18 anti-Lincoln letters dating from March 25, 1864 to October 8, 1864 constituted a formidable Democratic election campaign document. However, Kendall at all times advocated vigorous measures for the prosecution of the war.

"Lincoln was the first . . ."

Lincoln was the first President born beyond the boundaries of the original thirteen states.

Lincoln was the first President born in Kentucky.

Lincoln was the first President to obtain a patent.

Lincoln was the first President (1860) to be nominated in a building (Wigwam) that was especially constructed for a political convention.

Lincoln was nominated by the Republican Convention (1860) which was the first to invite the general public.

Lincoln was the first President to wear a beard.

Lincoln was the first President whose military escort (first inaugural) was really a guard instead of an honorary escort.

Lincoln was the first President to issue a national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation fixing the last Thursday of November as the annual date.

Lincoln was the first President to issue an amnesty proclamation to citizens (December 8, 1863).

Lincoln's second inauguration was the first in which Negroes participated.

Lincoln was the first President assassinated.

Lincoln was the first deceased President to rest in state in the United States Capitol rotunda.

Joseph Nathan Kane: Facts About The President.

———o———

"Next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary Todd Lincoln was the most discussed First Lady in presidential history — and the most assailed."

Ishbel Ross: Sons of Adam, Daughters of Eve — The Role of Women in American History.

Misfiled Lincoln Suit Found Among Records

The Human Side of the Library

Charles F. Hinds, State Librarian

FRANKFORT — Jeffrey Duff, an archivist in the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives, recently rediscovered in the course of his work a court document involving Abraham Lincoln's father. It had been misfiled in Hardin County records for several years.

The 14-page suit was filed by plaintiff Thomas Lincoln against defendant Denton Geoghegan, a wealthy landowner, for the forced payment of four pounds, nine shillings, no pence and 75 cents in American money.

Thomas Lincoln alleged that Geoghegan owed him for his labor in hewing timbers to be used in the construction of a sawmill. The defendant refused to pay Lincoln on the grounds that the work was not satisfactory, as the timbers prepared were neither square nor the required length.

Lincoln won the litigation in the county court, but it was later settled in a Circui Court return complaint by Geoghegan.

Lincoln failed to receive the full amount for his work on the sawmill and was further required to pay court costs.

The original county court suit is of interest for several reasons. First, it shows Lincoln was willing to stand up and fight for his rights — a far cry from the shiftless or lazy representation of him by some historians.

Secondly, the case illustrates the scarcity of coinage on the frontier. The bill and court cost assessments were ordered to be paid in both English and American currency.

Thirdly, this case, plus hundreds of others, helped to support 22 lawyers in a county still thinly settled and primitive in development.

Thomas Lincoln
A Gentleman

Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

For contact information, go to www.LincolnCollection.org.

From the Papers of
James A. Peterson
White Oaks Farm
Yorkville, Illinois

Lincoln Lore

February, 1981

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
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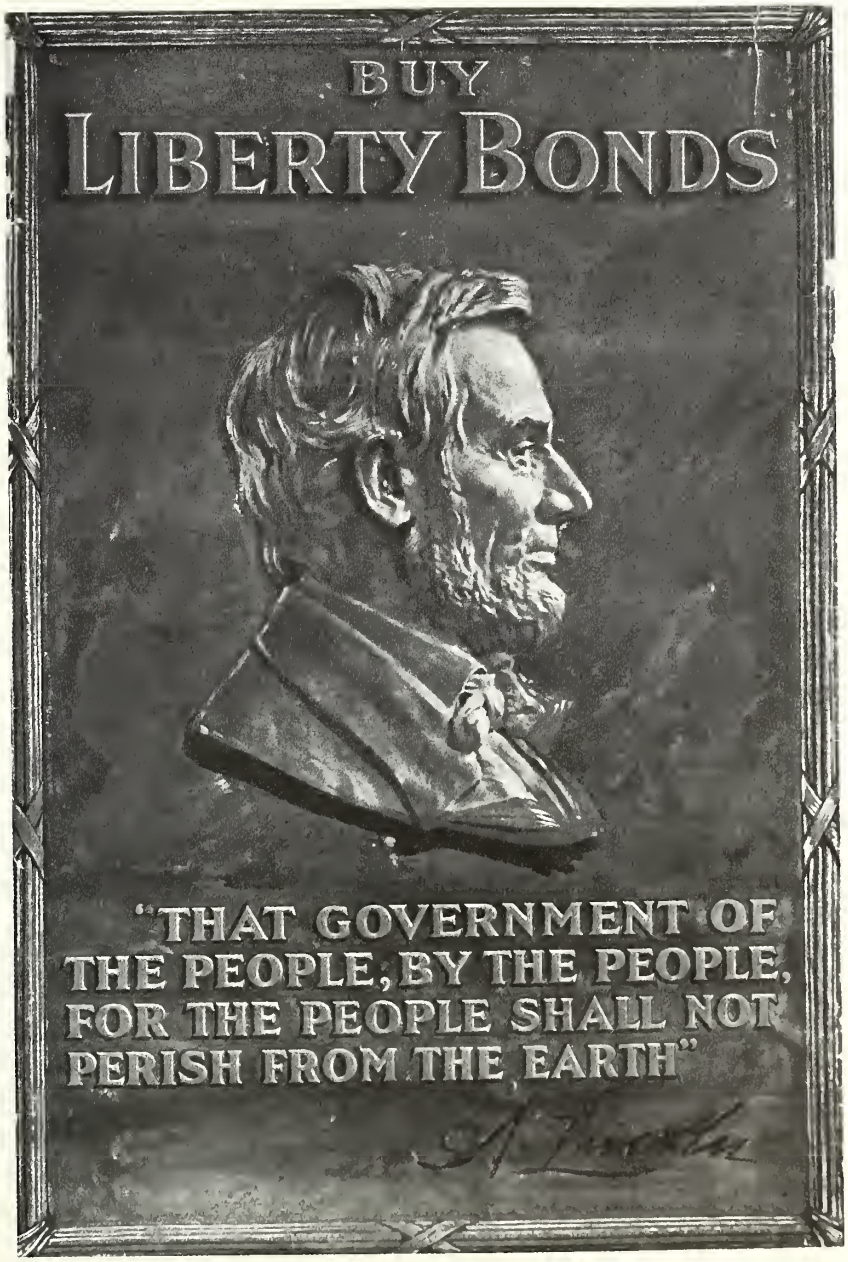
Number 1716

Of Tangled Stories and Charnwood's *Lincoln*



From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. The centennial celebration of Lincoln's birth in 1909 helped make Lincoln's image a powerful national symbol. By the time of World War I, Lincoln's face appeared frequently in war propaganda. In the same era, Charnwood's *Lincoln* helped make him an international figure.

Godfrey Rathbone Benson, Lord Charnwood, was an unlikely Lincoln biographer. The British upper classes were notoriously pro-Southern during the American Civil War, and he was born in that station in life in 1864. He did well at Oxford University, where he was later a tutor. He became a Member of Parliament and the Mayor of Lichfield.

After his graduation from Oxford in 1887, Charnwood made a tour of the United States. He returned briefly—to Boston and New York—in 1894. In politics, he was a Liberal. He was obviously interested in the United States, and, as a boy, he had read Charles G. Leland's *Abraham Lincoln*, a book memorable enough to be mentioned in the brief bibliographical note at the end of Charnwood's biography of Lincoln.

Charnwood's *Abraham Lincoln* was published in England in 1916. Available evidence suggests that his boyhood interest in Lincoln, his acquaintance with and admiration for the United States, and his liberal political leanings helped lead him to writing the book. The date of its publication, however, more strongly suggests that the atmosphere of co-operation between the United States and England, which grew up at the time of the First World War, must have played a large role in molding a sympathetic interest into the drive to write a substantial book on Abraham Lincoln.

The result, as all Lincoln students are aware, was wonderful. George Bernard Shaw told Lincoln collector Judd Stewart that Charnwood's "very penetrating biography" created "a cult of Lincoln in England." Its reception in America, following its publication there in 1917, was equally enthusiastic. The enthusiasm, as Paul M. Angle later noted, was lasting and pointed to merits in the work beyond its timeliness for the period of the final thaw in Anglo-American relations. In 1935 Roy P. Basler thought that Carl Sandburg and Nathaniel Wright Stephenson presented "the best version of the private Lincoln," but Charnwood's was still "the best of the public Lincoln." As late as 1947, Benjamin P. Thomas, an excellent judge of such matters, called Charnwood's book "the best one-volume life of Lincoln ever written."

Lincoln students may be a little unclear in regard to the precise reason Charnwood wrote his book, but they are unanimous on the reasons for its high reputation and popularity. David M. Potter's *The Lincoln Theme and American National Historiography* identified these clearly. No Lincoln biography before

Courtesy Adams National Historic Site (from the *Dictionary of American Portraits*, published by Dover Publications, Inc., in 1967)

FIGURE 2. Henry Adams.

Charnwood's was "genuinely contemplative." Charnwood's *Lincoln*, as it is usually called, was. Paul M. Angle's *A Shelf of Lincoln Books* put it this way: "... it is not primarily factual, as for example, Nicolay's *Short Life* is factual. The emphasis is rather upon interpretation and analysis." Potter also pointed to the book's "notable literary excellence." Angle credited Charnwood with bringing "literary skill to the Lincoln theme," far exceeding the prosaic Nicolay and Hay or the hasty journalistic style of Ida Tarbell. Potter found "especial merit" in Charnwood's ability "to grasp the universality of Lincoln's significance." Angle also noted the Englishman's "conviction that Lincoln was one of the world's truly great men." Though critics did not say so explicitly, this trait set the book apart from the narrow nationalism even of contemporary biographers as talented as Stephenson and Albert Beveridge.

Charnwood was sympathetic, but he wrote from a cultural distance that Midwesterners like William Herndon, Jesse Weik, John Nicolay, and John Hay lacked perforce. This exempted Charnwood from a kind of partisanship that no American at the time seemed able to escape. Potter saw in this the root of Charnwood's unembarrassed ability to ask the "hard" questions about Lincoln:

> Did Lincoln temporize too much on slavery? Was there a quality of "cheap opportunism" in his political record? Did his policy at Fort Sumter differ from Buchanan's enough to justify the customary practice of gibbeting the silly old man while leaving Lincoln free from criticism? Was he, in the last analysis, responsible for precipitating the Civil War?

Lord Charnwood admitted that he did not "shrink ... from the display of a partisanship" that led him to state frankly that the South's cause was wrong. What made his book exceptional was, as Potter stated, that Charnwood at least asked the questions. What also made the book good was Charnwood's view—as accurate today as it was in 1916—that the "true obligation of impartiality is that he [the author] should conceal no fact which, in his own mind, tells against his views." His was not the advocate's effort to pile up all the facts that help his argument but the fair-minded historian's attempt to answer those arguments which seem most telling against his own case.

Charnwood, therefore, was never afraid to criticize Lincoln. Relying on the inaccurate literature available at the time, for example, Charnwood pictured Lincoln's father as "a migrant" and claimed that the "unseemliness in talk of rough, rustic boys flavoured the great President's conversation through life." (He saw, more accurately, that Lincoln was "void of romantic fondness for vanished joys of youth.") He labeled Lincoln's use of martial law in the North a usurpation of power.

Charnwood did no original research for the book and relied for facts on a small number of standard works, but he was a well-read man who used his generally cultured background to good effect. In a passage of marvelous irony, the learned Englishman criticized one of America's own great critics of democracy, Henry Adams, by saying, "It is a contemptible trait in books like that able novel 'Democracy,' that they treat the sentiment which attached to the 'Rail-splitter' as anything but honourable." Less accurate in the long run but appealing in the period of the book's greatest popularity was the viewpoint Charnwood derived from reading James Bryce's *American Commonwealth*. That critique of American politics made Charnwood hostile to political parties and the spoils system that Lincoln used so well. Charnwood saw American party politics as avoiding serious issues and largely incapable of producing great leaders. Of Lincoln's election in 1860, he said that "the fit man was chosen on the very ground of his supposed unfitness."

Lord Charnwood appreciated Lincoln's common origins, but he dwelled particularly on Lincoln's statesmanship. Secession, to Charnwood, was a broadly popular movement in the South aimed at saving slavery, and Lincoln's efforts to counter it were noble, progressive, and somehow Christian. Following a current of British military opinion at the time, he praised Lincoln's abilities as a commander in chief. He did not belittle the Emancipation Proclamation. It could be interpreted as a narrowly military measure only in law, Charnwood argued. Given the limited research he did for the biography, one is not surprised to learn that Charnwood repeated some spurious quotations and anecdotes. He often handled these well. Of the apocryphal story of Lincoln's clemency for the sleeping sentinel William Scott, Charnwood concluded: "If the story is not true—and there is no reason whatever to doubt it—still it is a remarkable man of whom

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 3. Jesse Weik.

people spin yarns of that kind." A man of deep religious interests himself, Charnwood noted Lincoln's growth in that realm to the "language of intense religious feeling" in the Second Inaugural Address.

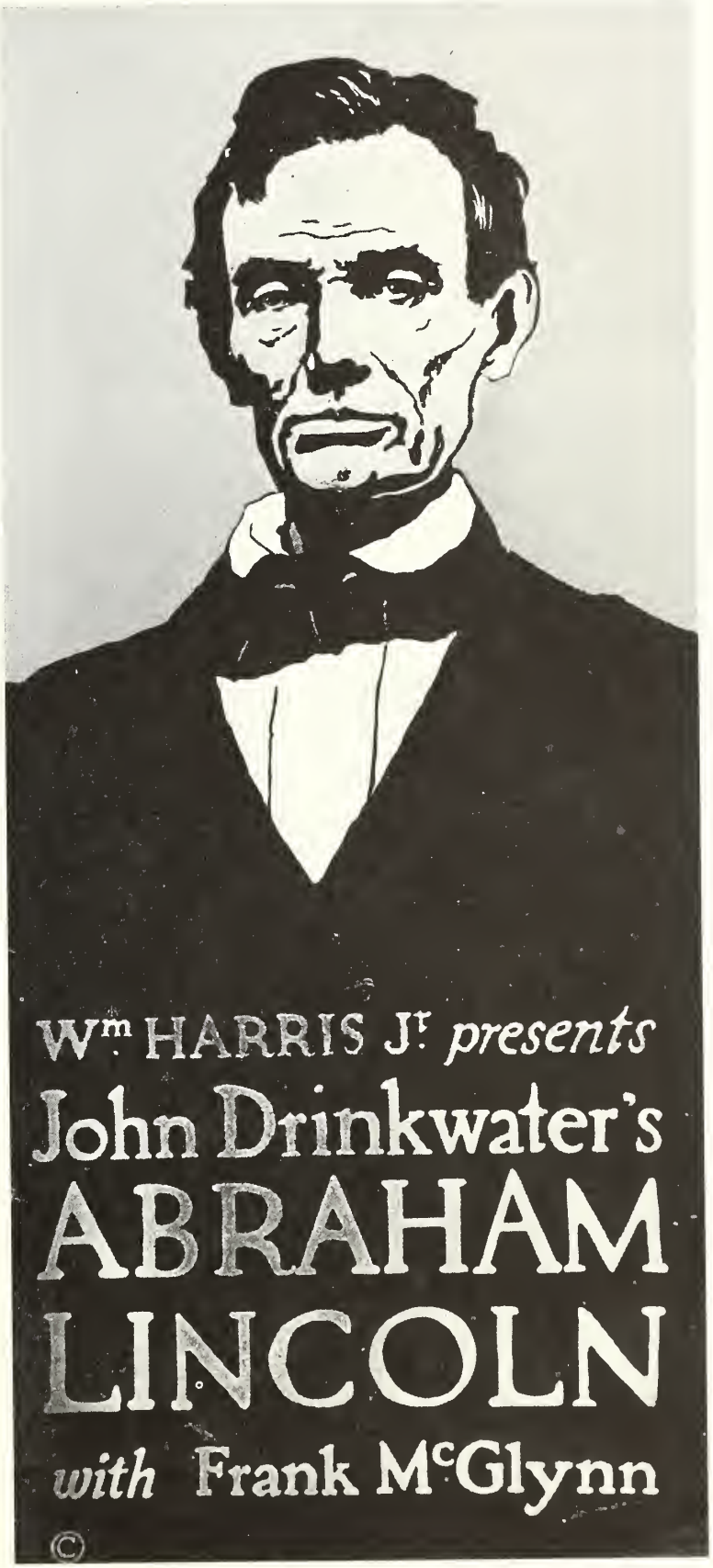
Charnwood kept his focus on the meaning of Lincoln's efforts to save the Union. These, he thought, were attempts to save democratic government for the whole world. He properly stressed Lincoln's praise for Henry Clay as a patriot who "loved his country, partly because it was his own country, and mostly because it was a free country."

Maintaining focus in a Lincoln biography was a real achievement, and focusing it on the truly important questions was Charnwood's greatest achievement. It is difficult to discover the means by which he did this because Charnwood letters are rather scarce in this country. This institution, though it seeks the letters of Lincoln's biographers, has not a single Charnwood letter. The Illinois State Historical Library has less than half a dozen. Among the later, however, there is one illuminating letter to Jesse W. Weik.

Written on May 17, 1919, just after Charnwood's triumphant lecture tour of the United States, the letter acknowledged Weik's gift of two Lincoln autographs for Lady Charnwood's autograph collection. Echoing a phrase from a famous Lincoln letter, Lord Charnwood characterized the gift as "such an addition . . . as she had never hoped to obtain, knowing that indeed Lincoln autographs are not plenty as blackberries." He apologized for the delay in writing. His younger son, eight years old, had been killed in a fall from a pony. He told Weik that the United States appeared much changed since his first visit thirty-one years before, "mainly . . . for the good."

Naturally, the letter soon got around to the subject of Abraham Lincoln. On his recent tour of the United States, Lord Charnwood wrote, "I came across, & indeed have been coming across ever since I published my book, many signs of the tendency, which had been active, to make a sort of stained-glass-window figure of Lincoln, quite removed from genuine human sympathy & impossible really to revere." He noted, tactfully, that Weik's own book, written with William Herndon, "made it impossible that such a tendency should lastingly prevail." In writing Weik, Charnwood diplomatically avoided commenting directly on the overall accuracy of the Herdon-Weik book. He said only that he had studied it carefully or that it prevented uncritical hero worship. Charnwood was careful thus to pay his "respects to one of the pioneer writers on the subject of which" Charnwood was "a junior student."

Charnwood's tour had brought him into contact with the controversies over Lincoln's ancestry, then raging in America. "The question," Charnwood commented, "is of little interest in itself,—not that heredity is an unimportant influence (for of course it is vastly important) but that its working is generally too subtle to be traced, that when we have the correct names of a great man's grand-parents & great-grand-parents (& how few of us can name all our great-grand-parents!) they generally remain mere names, and finally that nothing in his or any man's ancestry adds anything or detracts anything to or from his individual worth." Here again was Lord Charnwood at his tactful and ironic best—an Englishman, who did "not care two pence, or a cent (which is less) about the authority of this or any other pedigree (my own for example)," giving lessons on individualism to an American whose book had made rather a sensation for what it said about Lincoln's ancestry.



From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. British playwright John Drinkwater drew inspiration for his popular play about Lincoln from Lord Charnwood's biography. The play was first performed in America in 1919.

"So," Charnwood said, "this question thoroughly bores me." Then, remembering the letter's recipient, he added a hasty parenthetical comment—"except that Lincoln's own interest in the subject is an interesting trait in him as Herndon & Weik record it." Still, having written a book about Lincoln, Charnwood felt that he might be "bound to know what there is to be known about it." Several questions followed for the sake of "antiquarian accuracy."

Charnwood had known of the questions surrounding Lincoln's Hanks ancestry when he wrote his book, and he queried Weik about new theories on the legitimacy of Lincoln's mother. In America, Charnwood had been astonished to learn that some raised questions about Lincoln's own legitimacy. "My time at Springfield," Charnwood said, "(in which I met some delightful people of the older generation who gave me, though without much detail a vivid impression of old times) was a little too much taken up with hearing tangled stories in which this question [of Lincoln's legitimacy] got mixed up with the other which I have spoken of [the question of Lincoln's mother's legitimacy]." One man in particular had been much taken with the notion that Lincoln was descended from John Marshall. "I think my friend," Charnwood went on, "is merely suffering from a variety of the same disease which makes others desire to derive Lincoln from wholly respectable people of [as] good standing as possible. He can not suffer it that a great man should have arisen without some ancestor of manifest intellectual eminence." Charnwood was "inclined to treat the idea as rubbish," but he still wanted to know whether there was anything to it.

Lord Charnwood concluded his letter thus:

> I feel almost ashamed to have filled up my letter with questions which are of no importance in comparison with the actual life & work & character of the man who was any way Abraham Lincoln whoever his ancestors were.

Never afraid to ask questions or hear answers that might change his mind, Lord Charnwood nevertheless kept his focus always on the essentials of Lincoln's greatness.

Lloyd Ostendorf Joins Bibliography Committee

Lloyd Ostendorf of Dayton, Ohio, will join the Bibliography Committee which passes judgment on the inclusion of items in *Lincoln Lore*'s Cumulative Bibliography. Born in Dayton on June 23, 1921, Mr. Ostendorf graduated from Stivers High School in his home town in 1939. He began studying art after his graduation. He attended the Dayton Art Institute from 1939 to 1941. He spent the summer of 1940 in New York City, studying with cartoonist Milton Caniff and his associates. In 1941 Mr. Ostendorf enlisted in the Army Air Corps, with which he served until 1945.

The war interrupted Mr. Ostendorf's career in illustration and portrait work which began in 1939. He has furnished art work for many different publications and projects, and much of it has focused on Abraham Lincoln. Fascinated by the "oddly balanced ruggedness and beauty" of Lincoln's face, he began drawing pictures of Lincoln when he was twelve years old. His attention naturally turned to the photographs of Lincoln which he copied and adapted. Mr. Ostendorf got special encouragement in his work from Louis A. Warren, one of the few Lincoln authorities at the time interested in encouraging work with Lincoln pictures. As he sought photographs from which to work, Mr. Ostendorf also came into contact with Frederick Hill Meserve, the first great student and collector of Lincoln photographs. Meserve was "as nice as an old man could be to a young man" who shared his interest, Mr. Ostendorf remembers.

Mr. Ostendorf's first book *A Picture Story of Abraham Lincoln* (1962), a biography for young readers, was so popular that it has been reissued by Lamplight Publishing, Inc., as *Abraham Lincoln: The Boy and the Man*. His next work was *Lincoln in Photographs: An Album of Every Known Pose* (1963), which he wrote with Charles Hamilton. This book, essential to even the smallest Lincoln library, is still available from the University of Oklahoma Press. Hardly a week passes in which the staff of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum fails to consult this fine book to answer questions about Lincoln photographs and the many lithographs and engravings inspired by them, and this is surely true of every other Lincoln institution as well.

Mr. Ostendorf's expertise in this very specialized but popular area of Lincolniana has been widely recognized. Lincoln Memorial University awarded him the Lincoln Diploma of Honor in 1966. Lincoln College awarded him an honorary degree (Litt. D.) in 1968, and Lincoln Memorial University added another (Art. D.) in 1974. He has been the art editor of the *Lincoln Herald* since 1957, and all Lincoln students are familiar with the wonderfully varied covers he provides for that quarterly journal. He was also an honorary member of the National Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission.

Mr. Ostendorf, in addition to illustrating greeting cards and religious materials, maintains his interest in Lincolniana. He recently completed a painting of Lincoln's stepmother for the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, Illinois. Another recent portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln as a young woman hangs in the restored Todd home in Lexington, Kentucky. Studying photographs in order to determine what historical figures looked like in periods when no photographs of them are available is a special interest. Mr. Ostendorf has also been working on three books: a study of Lincoln portraits from life (with Harold Holzer); the recollections of Mariah Vance, a Lincoln family maid in Springfield (with David Balsiger); and a Lincoln family photograph album (with James T. Hickey).

Over the years, Mr. Ostendorf's interests have grown from Lincoln's physical appearance to all aspects of his life. His general knowledge and his special expertise make him a most welcome addition to the advisory board.

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 5. Lloyd Ostendorf

Donated by
Paul W. Urbahns
2887 Republic Ave.
Radcliff, Ky. 40160

Unfair light

History of son overlooks Thomas Lincoln

By PAUL W. URBAHNS
Turret special correspondent

The story of Thomas Lincoln has been overshadowed in history by the chronicles of his famous son, President Abraham Lincoln. In relating the story of Abraham Lincoln, historians have emphasized Abraham's early life to the point that an unfair light is cast upon his father. Recent research, since 1900, reveals that previous statements about Thomas Lincoln were in many cases untrue, exaggerated, or open lies.

It was during Abraham Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign that Republican party publicity writers planted the seed of untruth that became part of our national heritage. The basic campaign strategy was to portray Abe not as the successful Springfield, Ill., attorney that he was, but to create the impression that he was raised in near poverty, from a backwoods community, and of poor, unintelligent parents.

The result was that the facts were blown so far out of proportion that general opinion was that Abraham Lincoln bettered himself in spite of his humble upbringing. The campaign did not work in Hardin County where local residents knew the true story. Abraham Lincoln received less votes in this area than he had relatives.

"The Lincoln Heritage House was restored to perpetuate the memory of a man, humble in origin and deed who probably gave not a single thought to history or to the consequences of the events of the age in which he lived, but who, nevertheless, will go down in the annals of this country as the father of a giant of a man who changed the course of history in the United States for all time to come," wrote Guy Winstead. "Thomas Lincoln was an ordinary man and though he was much maligned by historians and biographers of his renowned son, President Abraham Lincoln, he was a respected, esteemed, substantial citizen of Hardin County."

When Thomas grew to maturity, he moved to the Mill Creek area of Hardin County. It was here that he learned the job of carpentry and cabinet making. There are numerous accounts showing where he was paid for work done.

One of his earliest employers in Hardin County was Samuel Haycraft, a farm owner in the Mill Creek area, who paid him $9.56 for work done around June 13, 1787. Thomas was also hired by Haycraft to work on the mill and mill race constructed that year in Elizabethtown.

Through his own industry, Thomas was able to save enough money to purchase more than 200 acres of land on Mill Creek, which lies on the southern boundary of Fort Knox today. These acres, for which he paid one hundred and eighteen pounds (approximately $600 in 1803's money), was not barren, uncultivated land. The deed mentions houses, barns, a stable, and outbuildings. The farm appears to have been a fairly successful operation for the previous owner.

Thomas Lincoln's interest was not in farming. He raised crops and livestock like most other residents in order to have food to eat and product to bargain with at the general store. By turning in his annual harvest, Lincoln built up credit with the merchant so that during the year he could walk in and purchase anything that caught his fancy.

McClure's *History of Elizabethtown and Hardin County*, after numerating some of the items purchased during a period spanning a month concluded "a man in Thomas Lincoln's time who could spend 63 pounds, 3 shilling and 1½ pence, as he did, could not have been a loafer. He was not a wealthy man, but his financial status was doubtless equal to most of his local contemporaries and superior to many, both in property and in funds (credit).

It is generally agreed that the small cabin portion of the Lincoln Heritage House (located in Freeman Lake Park) was built in 1780 for Hardin and "Hetty" Thomas. It was here that they raised their family, including five children born between 1790 through 1800. During this time the Hardin County Court appointed a committee to survey a road from the Courthouse (Elizabethtown) to the ferry at the mouth of the Salt River (West Point). Hardin Thomas and Thomas Lincoln were among the signers of the petition which initiated that action.

As the Thomas family grew, it was necessary to build the larger cabin about 1805. At this time Thomas was living at his Mill Creek farm, only a few miles from the Thomas homestead.

The larger cabin, a two-story house, would have required the efforts of several men in construction. Similar in design to the cabin Thomas erected at his Mill Creek farm, it caused Samuel Haycraft, Jr., to remark in his history of Elizabethtown written many years later that Hardin Thomas "lived in a house rather better than usual for that day." He continued to state that the carpentry work was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the president.

Thomas Lincoln is credited with not only helping construct the cabin but also for making the identical stairways, the mantels for the two fireplaces and other woodwork. It is the fireplace mantel which we are presently concerned.

The story of Hardin Thomas skips to 1919 to Major William H. Radcliffe, who with his family was residing in Elizabethtown with F.H. Albert, great-granddaughter of Hardin Thomas. Upon noting the Lincoln mantel, Radcliffe suggested to Mrs. Jenkins, then owner of the mantel, to sell it to the government for the purpose of installing it at Camp Knox.

Mrs. Jenkins agreed to do this and she was paid for the mantel by government funds. The mantel was installed in the Con-Quar Club, an organization of the personnel of the Constructing Quartermaster who built Camp Knox during the period 1918-1919 under the supervison of Major Radcliffe.

When the Con-Quar Club broke up, the mantel was installed in the Hostess House. Subsequently, the station hospital burned and it was found necessary to use the Hostess House as a hospital. The mantel was removed at this time and was obtained by Mrs. F.C. Dickson, who lived at the "King House" on Highway 62 at Tip Top. The mantel was never used at the "King House", but was stored for approximately 2 years.

The mantel was next offered to the Women's Club of Elizabethtown on the condition that it be installed in the Brown-Pusey Community House. It was accepted by the board of directors but later declined by Doctor Pusey.

In 1934, when the Brick Mess was under construction, the constructing quartermaster was directed by the Quartermaster General to secure the Lincoln Mantel for installation in the library of the new building. As a result of this directive, a search was initiated for the mantel. Mrs. Dickson was contacted and it was learned that she had donated the mantel to the Kentucky Pioneer Memorial Association at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, where it had been installed in the "Museum House".

Following a series of letters between Col. Barney, Camp Commander and Mr. Iseberg, Director of the Kentucky Pioneer Memorial Association, the association returned the mantel to Camp Knox in June, 1934, where it was installed in the Kentucky Room (library) of the newly built Brick Mess.

Today, Thomas Lincoln's mantel is the center of attention in the "Lincoln Room" of the Fort Knox Officer's Club. Ironically, it is surrounded by a collection of memorabilia relating to his famous son.

Special thanks to the following for their hard work on the subject of Thomas Lincoln. Guy Winstead, Reba Mae Terry and the Hardin County Historical Society, and the Fort Knox Officers Club.

Marker to note militia service of Lincoln's father

August 09, 2013 10:00 am

herald-review.com

LERNA (AP) — A marker recognizing the military service of Abraham Lincoln's father will be placed on his grave during a ceremony in east-central Illinois later this month.

The president's father, Thomas Lincoln, was a military officer on the Kentucky frontier.

The marker will be put into place Aug. 31. Descendants of the Hall and Hanks families, cousins to Abraham Lincoln, will lay a memorial wreath. Historian James Siberell plans to speak about Thomas Lincoln's experiences in the militia.

The event is set for 11 a.m. at the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery in Lerna, near the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.

The marker is being presented by the Sangamon River Chapter of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Lincoln Log Cabin site.

Military marker placed on grave of Lincoln father

whbf.com

LERNA, Ill. (AP) - Newly unearthed information about the military service of Abraham Lincoln's father has led to a special marker being placed on his grave in east-central Illinois.

The marker recognizing his service was placed during a ceremony Saturday at the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery in Lerna, near the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.

Taking part were descendants of the Hall and Hanks families, cousins of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1795, Thomas Lincoln served in a militia unit defending Kentucky's frontier from Indians.

Many details of his service were lost when the state made room for Civil War documents by destroying earlier records.

But a historian discovered Lincoln was nominated to serve as an ensign in 1805. That document survived because it was sent to the governor for approval, and those documents weren't destroyed.

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Guernsey County man has presidential pedigree

Written by Anna Rumer Staff Writer
Feb. 17, 2014 |

zanesvilletimesrecorder.com

James Linkhorn talks about tracing his descendants all the way back to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was Linkhorn's great-great-great-uncle.

James Linkhorn talks about tracing his descendants all the way back to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was Linkhorn's great-great-great-uncle. / Chris Crook/Times Recorder

ZANESVILLE — Ever since James Linkhorn was a child, he was told he came from presidential blood. His family insisted they were descendents of President Abraham Lincoln, and while Linkhorn believed them, he rarely thought of it.

"It went in one ear and out the other," the 93-year-old Guernsey County resident said.

In 2012, however, he was able to confirm it. A DNA test he ordered from Family Tree DNA came back with irrefutable evidence — Abraham Lincoln was his great-great-great-uncle, and he most likely was Lincoln's closest living relative.

The DNA test proved he was related to Samuel Lincoln, who came to the U.S. from England around 1630 and died in 1690. Coming from Samuel's line was Mordecai I, (1657 to 1736), Mordecai II, (1686 to 1736), John, (1716 to 1788) and Abraham Linkhorn (1739 to 1785), who was Abraham Lincoln's grandfather. James' connection to the line came through Thomas Lincoln, the president's father, when he had an affair that resulted in an illegitimate child. Jesse Linkhorn, Abraham Lincoln's younger half-brother, then went on to become James Linkhorn's great-grandfather.

The Linkhorn to Lincoln conversion most likely happened during the family's move from Kentucky to Indiana, Linkhorn said, but the two names had been used jointly depending on the settlements they had been living in. Linkhorn was reserved for German settlements, while Lincoln was used in English settlements. This name changing allowed for them to fit in with the people they were with and avoid discrimination.

Linkhorn was thrilled what he had been told as a child could finally be proven. "It's good to be able to prove it, otherwise it's just hearsay," he said. "Some people kidded me, some of them called me Abe, but it was good to know for sure."

In his own life, Linkhorn served as a technical sergeant in the Army from 1942 to 1946. Upon his discharge he returned to Guernsey County, where he married his wife of 66 years, had three sons, and lived his life as a farmer and a carpenter. While he did not choose his profession based on family ties, he was happy to carry on a long-standing tradition of carpentry. "Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter, my great-grandfather was a carpenter, and I was a carpenter," he said.

The last living descendent of Lincoln himself was Robert Todd Lincoln Beck, who died in 1985 without having any children.

Although Linkhorn said the confirmation has not changed his life, he has enjoyed getting to know the history of his family, even if he only started searching about 20 years ago. "I should've asked questions," he said, "You don't ask questions until everyone's gone that's got the answers to them."

wrote the following poem on "The Grave of the Father of Abraham Lincoln:"

In a low sweet vale by a murmuring rill,
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping;
Where the cold marble shafts so lonely and still,
In silence their vigils are keeping.

On their sad lonely faces are words of fame,
But none of them speak of his glory;
When the pioneer died, his name and his age,
No monument whispered the story.

No myrtle, no ivy, nor hyacinth blows
O'er the lonely place where they laid him;
No cedar, nor holly, nor almond tree grows
Near the plebian's grave to shade him.

Sweet evergreens wave over many a grave,
O'er some bows the sad weeping willow;
But no willow trees bow, nor evergreens wave
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

While some are inhumed with the honor of state
And placed beneath temples to moulder,
The grave of the father of Lincoln the Great
Is known by a hillock and bowlder.

Let him take his long sleep and quietly rest,
With naught to disturb or awake him;
When the angels shall come to gather the blest
To Abraham's bosom they'll take him.

LINCOLN'S PARENT'S.

WHERE HIS FATHER AND STEPMOTHER ARE BURIED.

The Thomas Lincoln Monument and the Poem Which Caused Its Erection—The Lincoln Homestead Where the Old Couple Died.

At the Shiloh church, half way between the quiet county towns of Farmington and Janesville, in the southern part of Coles county, Ill., is a beautifully situated country burying ground known as the Gordon cemetery. Here, among the modest headstones that mark the graves of other pioneers, towers the marble shaft of one who, while living, was reckoned no better or greater than his neighbors, yet, now that time is still adding luster to the fame of his great son, the name of Thomas Lincoln and all that pertains to his life, his death and place of burial is coming into historic prominence. The graveyard is a pleasant drive from Mattoon, Charleston or Greenup, and many visit it during the summer months, but as the grave is overgrown with weeds and no flowers near, it would seem that the visitors are attracted more through curiosity than to do honor to the dead.

The grave of Thomas Lincoln was left unmarked from the time of his death in 1851 until 1880. After Abraham Lincoln was elected president he visited his father's grave and left word to have estimates sent him of the cost of a tombstone, but the war coming on it was never attended to. Thus rested the ashes of the pioneer, almost forgotten in the excitement of the times when his only son was acquiring the height of his fame, until George B. Balch, a local poet of no mean talent,

OLD THOMAS LINCOLN

FATHER OF THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT.

Characteristics of a Peaceable and Inoffensive but Lazy Old Man—Content to Smoke a Cob Pipe and Read the Bible—His Death.

When Abraham Lincoln reached his majority, he left his parents in eastern Illinois and started to the northwest. He stopped a short distance from the Illinois River and gradually drifted eastward again till he took up his residence in Springfield. It is believed now that, while he entertained the highest regard for his parents and his near relatives, yet he wanted to get away from them. The Hanks family—from which stock he had descended—were a shiftless set, indeed. They had no desire to accumulate property, and, as for education, they never believed in it; in fact, they were content with a small "patch" of cleared ground in the woods, with a trusty rifle and a few hounds to keep them company. The men, after planting a few acres of corn in the spring, spent the remainder of their time in hunting, while the women, left at home with the children, did the greatest part of the real work in farming. In every respect and characteristic they corresponded with that unfortunate class of people who still exist in certain parts of Kentucky and Tennessee known as "poor whites." There is no doubt young Abraham soon saw that he could never achieve success in such surroundings and that being ambitious to attract public notice, he quietly moved away from them. Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham, died when he was only ten years old, and the following year his father, Thomas Lincoln, married a widow, Sarah Johnson, who was the mother of two children. From this time (1820) until after his own death Abraham had a step-mother, and during all this time he helped support her and his father. It is to his honor that he dearly loved his step-mother, and it is equally true she idolized her step-son. He purchased a farm in Coles County, Illinois, for his father and mother, and had it deeded in trust for their use and benefit, and there the aged couple lived till their death. Thomas Lincoln, the father, was a peaceable and inoffensive, but lazy old man. He worked but little, accumulated nothing, and harmed nobody. He had no desires above a flitch of bacon or a saleratus biscuit. Even before his death his son was a member of Congress, but that made no difference to him. In fact he hardly ever referred to it. He walked every morning to the country store, sat on the same boxes and smoked his cob pipe with prompt regularity. But few ever heard him mention Abraham, and unless the people so informed the casual visitor, he would leave the village of Farmington without knowing that he had seen the man who was responsible for the existence of the future emancipator. Thomas Lincoln had no education worth mentioning. He had a noted fondness for the Bible, and a few years before his death read it constantly. He was able to write his name, which was about all he could master in penmanship. Beyond this he cared not to go. He had no cares and was content with his lot. When he emigrated from Spencer County, Indiana, he brought the family in a wagon whose wheels were, like those of the ancient Egyptian carts, made of one solid piece of wood, and drawn by two oxen. The indispensible quota of hounds followed the wagon, and behind it all came Abraham leading the cow. They landed near the village of Farmington, in Coles County, and were among the quietest people there. Abraham did not remain long. He soon moved to Macon County, where, together with his cousin, Dennis Hanks, he split the rails which afterward made him famous. After he launched out into the practice of law, he would frequently visit his parents, and on some occasions would attend to suits in the justices courts if requested. When license was granted him to practice law, he put the precious document in his pocket, and at once set out to visit his father. At this time James Gill, a man of considerable wealth, who lived near Thomas Lincoln, brought suit against another man, who had allowed his stock to destroy the growing crops of the plaintiff. The suit was for trespass and before a Justice of the Peace. Mr. Gill learning that the young lawyer was in the neighborhood secured his services. Lincoln conducted the case to the satisfaction of his client and secured a judgment for $10 and costs against the defendant. As soon as the case was decided Gill took out his pocket-book and lifting a ten dollar bill therefrom presented it to Lincoln with the remark: "Here, Abe, is your fee." Lincoln declined it, however, on the ground that it was his first case and that Gill was a good neighbor of his father's. Gill insisted and Lincoln continued to refuse, saying that the fee was too great in proportion to the sum received in the judgment. Gill was a proud-spirited and impulsive man, and Lincoln, seeing that resistence was useless, addressed him as follows: "Well, Mr. Gill, as you are bent on giving me the money I'll take it, not for my own use, but will give it to father, for he is poor and needs it." So saying, he took the bill, and, turning to his father, who was present, gave it to him. Old man Lincoln, no doubt, had use for the money, and for more, too, could his dutiful son have furnished it to him. The log cabin in which he lived and died is still standing, and visitors to it are shown the Bible he read and other interesting relics. Abraham continued to visit the place and often rendered his father's neighbors further legal services. At one time he conducted a hotly contested suit on behalf of one John Rogers, to recover possession of a mare which had strayed away over the boundless and fenceless prairie and had been adopted by another man. Everybody in the neighborhood was examined as to the identity of the mare. Lincoln fought his way inch by inch, and at last gained the case. None of these victories seemed to elate or leave any marked impression on old Thomas Lincoln. He never boasted of his son Abraham as a lawyer or congressman. He simply, and at the same time wisely, concluded that the young man was entitled to all the honors he obtained, and that his own relation to him as father was of little consequence. Sensible old man. Would that other proud fathers of ambitious sons could take the same philosophic view of things. At times the old gentleman would get pinched financially. His step-son, John D. Johnson, was as poor a manager as he, and besides drank too freely. All the winter's meat having vanished, and no money in the house, resort would be had to Abraham, who in due time would remit enough hard cash to lubricate things till another season of friction came on. Meanwhile the future President at Springfield was winning fresh laurels as the days rolled by. Having returned from Congress, he was preparing for greater struggles ahead. To advance himself politically—and to my mind, for no other reason—he had married into one of the first and most aristocratic families at the State Capital. One brother-in-law was Attorney General of the State, another a leading physician, and still another a wealthy merchant. His own wife and her sisters were women of education and refinement. Proud of their standing and family connections, they easily became leaders in society. In the winter Springfield was gay and active; the Legislature, when in session, brought Lincoln into contact with men from all over the State. His wife, conscious of her husband's growing power, would hold receptions, and move with haughty mien in the highest social circles. Lincoln, like Douglas, was fast making strides forward. Who, in all these brilliant circles, ever thought of old Thomas Lincoln. Not proud Mary Todd, his son's wife; not the refined Mrs. Edwards, her sister, for they had perhaps never seen any of Abraham Lincoln's relatives. Could it be that Abraham himself, amidst all his brilliant surroundings, had forgotten his illiterate but good-natured old father? A letter recently unearthed, shows that he had not. Early in January, 1851, the old gentleman was taken sick. His step-son, John D. Johnson, writes Abraham concerning his father's condition. On the 12th inst. the latter responds: "You already know I desire that neither father nor mother shall be in want of any comfort, either in health or sickness, while they live; and I feel sure you have not failed to use my name if necessary to procure a doctor or anything else for father in his present sickness. My business is such that I could hardly leave home now, if it was not, as it is, that my own wife is sick abed. I sincerely hope father may yet recover his health; but at all events tell him to remember to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of a sparrow and numbers the hair of our heads, and he will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in him. Say to him that if we could meet now, it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant, but that if it be his lot to go now he will soon have a joyous meeting with many loved ones gone before, and where the rest of us, through the help of God, hope ere long to join them." Dutiful and affectionate son! Noble man! Within three days after this letter was written Thomas Lincoln had passed away from earth. They carried his body to the church-yard not far off, a Baptist preacher, whose name can not now be remembered, said a few words or offered up a devout prayer, and then they buried him away forever. Until 1876 a small bowlder and a little mound of earth was all that marked the grave. In February, 1861, his son, Abraham, a few days before his departure for Washington to be inaugurated, visited the last resting place of his humble sire, and with his pen-knife cut the initials "T. L." on a bit of oak board and placed it at the head of the grave; this was afterward carried away by some curiosity hunter, and the grave was only distinguished from others by the few remaining persons who were present at the burial. In 1876 George B. Balch, of Janesville, Coles County, a poet who contributed to the local papers in his neighborhood, penned the annexed lines, which, upon being published, called attention to the neglect of Thomas Lincoln's grave, and about two years ago a beautiful marble monument some seven feet high was placed over it. I only reproduce the last three stanzas of the poem:

"Bright evergreens wave over many a grave,
O'er some bows the sad weeping-willow,
But no willow trees bow nor evergreens wave
Where the Pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

"While some are inhumed with the honors of state,
And placed beneath temples to molder;
The grave of the father of Lincon the Great
Is known by a hillock and bowlder.

"Let him take his last sleep, and quietly rest
With naught to disturb or awake him,
When the good angels come to gather the blest,
To ABRAHAM'S bosom they'll take him."

JESSE W. WERK.

Indianapolis

FATHER OF LINCOLN.

HE SLEEPS IN A CEMETERY NEAR JANESVILLE.

A Poem That Caused the Erection of a Monument to Him Twenty-Nine Years After His Death—The Home of the Great Emancipator's Parents.

(Greenup, Ill., Correspondence.)

AT the Shiloh church, half-way between the quiet country towns of Farmington and Janesville, in the southern part of Coles county, Illinois, is a beautifully situated country burying ground known as the Gordon cemetery. Here, among the modest headstones that mark the graves of other pioneers, towers the marble shaft of one who, while living, was reckoned no greater or better than his neighbors, yet, now that time is still adding luster to the fame of his great son, the name of Thomas Lincoln and all that pertains to his life, his death, and place of burial is coming into historic prominence. The graveyard is a pleasant drive from Mattoon, Charleston or Greenup, and many visit it during the summer months, but as the grave is overgrown with weeds and no flowers are near it would seem that the visitors are attracted more through curiosity than to do honor to the dead.

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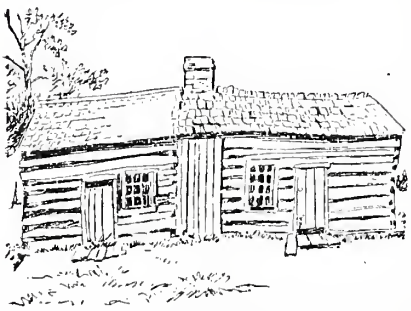
In a low sweet vale of a murmuring rill,
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping;



HOME OF LINCOLN'S PARENTS.

Where the cold marble shafts so lonely and still,
In silence their vigils are keeping.

On their sad, lonely faces are werds of fame,
But none of them speak of his glory;
When the pioneer died, his name and his age,
No monument whispered the story.

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O'er the lonely place where they laid him;
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Is known by a hillock and bowlder.

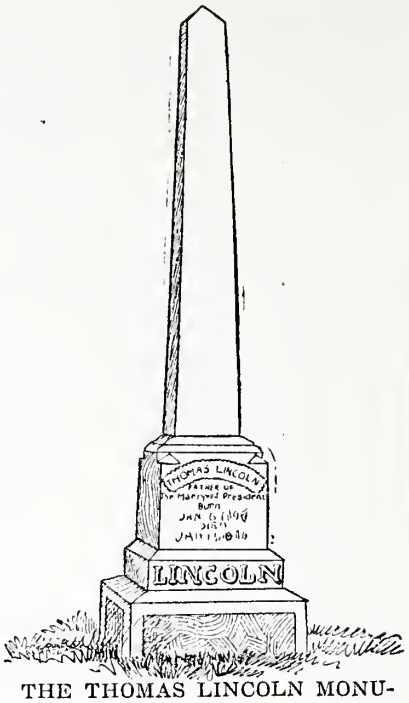
Let him take his long sleep and quietly rest,
With naught to disturb or awake him;
When the angels shall come to gather the blest,
To Abraham's bosom they'll take him.

These verses were published in Lippincott's Magazine and other publications and a copy sent to Robert Lincoln, who promptly responded by offering to pay the expense of a monument for his grandfather's grave. Meantime the poem had aroused the patriotism of Coles county citizens and some funds had been raised here, so that when the draft was made on the younger Lincoln it was for only $116. The monument is a plain Grecian obelisk of Italian marble, 9 feet 8 inches in height, by no means the finest in the rural graveyard, and bears the following simple inscription:

THOMAS LINCOLN,
Father of
the Martyred President.
Born
Jan. 6, 1778;
Died
Jan. 15, 1851.

On the base is the word "Lincoln" in large letters, and a small footstone bears the letters "T. L." The monument was placed where it now stands on the 7th day of May, 1880, twenty-nine years after Mr. Lincoln's death.

Thomas Lincoln's second wife sleeps by his side, and she, too, deserves more than passing notice in the pages of history. Abraham Lincoln loved her as a mother, and it is said that he owed much of his straightness of character and nobleness of soul to her training.



THE THOMAS LINCOLN MONUMENT.

Ink Fades with Age.

The manuscripts of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries are, in many cases, almost illegible on account of the fading of the ink. At that time the lampblack inks passed out of use and chemical inks became popular.

JINCOLN'S PARENT'S.

'HERE HIS FATHER AND STEP-MOTHER ARE BURIED.

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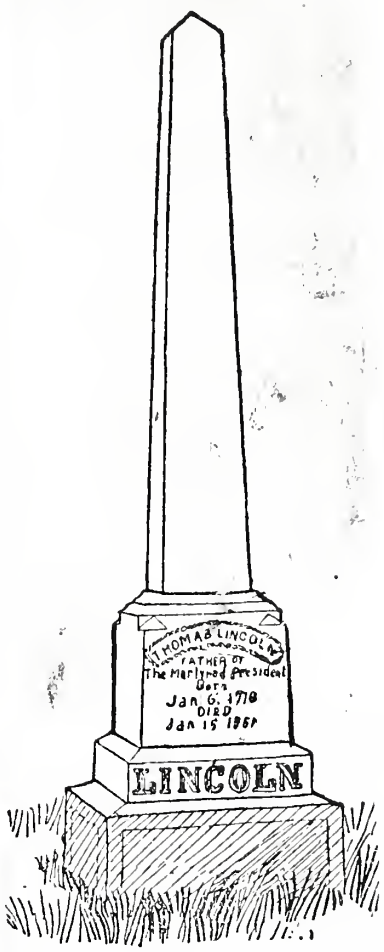
and nobleness of soul to her training.
When he was elected president, and
before going to Washington, he vis-
ited his father's grave and the lowly
home that had sheltered him for so
many years. She, with a mother's l.
tuition, was fearful of the great task
he was undertaking of leading the
naiton in its honr of greatest
peril, and told him she knew he
wonld be killed. Abe only laughed
and said in his characteristic way that
he "gnessed not," but her fears were
realized. She died in 1869, and such
was her fame that the whole surrounding
country joined in the funeral



The Thomas Lincoln Monument

cession. No stone marks her last
resting place.

Two miles southeast of the grave-
yard is the old Lincoln farm on Goose
Nest prairie—so named in early days
because the woods surround it in the
form of a goose nest—to which Thom-
as Lincoln moved from Macon county
the only move he ever made after
coming to Illinois. Abraham Lincoln
helped build the old log cabin but
but never lived with his parents
having started in life for himself

at this time, [illegible]
orable ground th[illegible]
mother spent the[illegible]
Hall, a landmark in
tory and a good type [illegible]
most extinct Illinois pi[illegible]
his farm and makes his h[illegible]
His mother was a stepsister o[illegible]
ham Lincoln, and they rode in
wagon that brought the Lincoln
ily from Spencer county, In[illegible], to
ois, in 1830, when he was [illegible] a
old, the future president driving
ox team that hauled them. Afte[illegible]
death of Thomas Lincoln, Mr.
bought the place of John D. John
Lincoln's stepbhother, and has h[illegible]
since, Grandmother Lincoln [illegible]
her home with him until her
Mr. Hall is doubly kin to the [illegible]
president, being a stepne[illegible] on
mother's side and a seco[illegible] usin on
his father's his mother, Matilda
Johnston, having been a [illegible]ghter of
Thomas Lincoln's second wife [illegible]
first husband, Daniel Johnston, and
his father, Squire Hall, a son of Eli-
zabeth Hanks, sister of Nancy H[illegible]s,
Abraham Lincoln's own mot[illegible]
Hall has eight brothers
who share this distin[illegible]
Mrs. Nancy A. Moore, [illegible]edo,
Mrs. Elizabeth [illegible]erry; Janesville, [illegible]
Mrs. Louisa Fox, Evansville, Ind.; Al-
fred Hall, Toledo, Ill.; Joseph Hall,
deceased; Mrs Amanda Brown, of Mis-
souri; and Rachel and Harriet, twins,
both maried and one living in Cali-
fornia and one in Coles County, [illegible]ear
the old home.

In 1891 John Hall sold the old [illegible]g
house to the Abraham Lin[illegible] Log
Cabin Association to be rem[illegible] to
the world's fair. He also tran[illegible]
to them, hoping they would be
preserved in their keeping, all
ics he had in his possession. A[illegible]
these were fence rails made by
Lincolns, a bureau that homas Lincoln
took with him from Kentucky to In-
diana, thence to Illinois one of the
drawers of which Abraham Lincoln
had used to keep his books in; a dic-
tionary used by Abraham Lincoln in
his boyhood days and the clock that
he heard tick while he studied by the
firelight; a spinning wheel that had
been used by Abraham Lincoln's moth-
er and stepmother, for which he used
to reel the yarn that was spun upon
it to make his clothes; grindstone
which Thomas Lincoln made from a
bowlder and Abraham often turned;
the berstead on which both Thomas
and Sarah Lincoln died and where the
president had frequently slept, and
an acre of land where the log cabin
stood, to be reserved for memorial
purposes. Mr. Hall retained nothing
but a copy of the family record, the
only genealogy kept of the Lincoln
family, incomplete though it was,
which is given in full below:

"Thomas Lincoln was born January
6, 1778, and was married June 6, 1806,
to Nancy Hanks, who was born Feb-
ruary 5, 1784.

"Sarah Lincoln, daughter of Thomas
and Nancy Lincoln, was born Febru-
ary 12, 1807.

"Abraham Lincoln, son of Thomas
and Nancy Lincoln, was born Febru-
ary 12, 1809.

"Sarah Bush, first married to Daniel
Johnston, and afterwards second wife
of Thomas Lincoln, was born Decem-
ber 13, 1788.

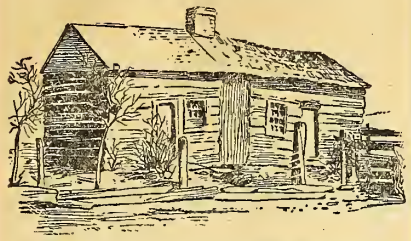
"John D. Johnston, son of Daniel
and Sarah Johnston, was born May
10, 1810, and married to Mary Baker
October 13, 1834, who was born July
22, 1816."

M[illegible] Hall speaks of Thomas Lincoln
as [illegible]ne of the best men that ever lived
—a sturdy, honest, God-fearing man,
whom all the neighbars respected and
turned to in time of trouble, and tells
how he would work hard all week,
then walk to Charleston, a distance of
twelve miles, on Saturday evening,
that he might hear the gospel preach-
ed on Sunday. No photograph or like-
ness was ever taken of homas Lincoln,
but the pioneer remember him as a
plain, broad-shouldered frontlersman,
scarcely as tall as his son.—St. Louis
Globe-Democrat.

HE WAS ALWAYS "ON THE MOVE."

Thomas Lincoln, Father of the Emancipator, Was of a Migratory Disposition.

The country has heard much of the oddities and weaknesses of Thomas Lincoln, father of the Liberator; how he was ever on the move and invariably succeeded in making about as bad a location



WHERE LINCOLN'S PARENTS DIED.

as circumstances allowed. His life in Kentucky and Indiana has been given in minute detail because his son was still with him then, but very little has been said of his various removals in Illinois.

His first location was in Macon county a few miles from the present city of Decatur, "in the timber," as the phrase was, for in those days no one imagined that the prairies would be settled in the lifetime of living man. Indeed several of the early gazetteers of Illinois stated that "those broad grassy plains would remain for ever as common grazing grounds for adjacent farmers." In a few years, however, it was discovered that the prairies were more fertile than the woodland, and Thomas Lincoln was all in a fever to move again, and did.

In 1841 he made a second removal, but to what place is not recorded, as he did not remain long. "He still listened," says Herndon, "to the glowing descriptions of prosperity in adjacent counties." His third and last move was to the newest part of Coles county then called Goose Nest prairie, near the present hamlet of Farmington and eight miles south of Charleston, the county town. His last plaintive utterance to his famous son was that his little tract of land bore "the usual incumbrance a mortgage for $200."

On the 15th of January 1851 he died there at the age of seventy three years and eleven days. From a letter written the following November by Abraham Lincoln to his stepbrother, Johnston we learn that the writer paid the mortgage and secured "the eastern forty acres for mother." There the president elect saw her early in 1861 for the last time, and there she died April 10, 1869. A handsome marble shaft erected by Robert T. Lincoln marks the burial place of the Liberator's father. J. H. B.

BY J. F. BOZAN.

In a pretty little cemetery a mile and a half north of Janesville, in Coles County, Illinois, lies all that is mortal of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, a plain and unpretentious marble shaft probably twelve feet in height marking the spot, which is pointed out with pride by citizens living in that vicinity. The monument or shaft contains only this brief inscription:

"Thomas Lincoln, father of the martyred President. Born Jan. 6, 1778. Died Jan. 15, 1851."

Below the inscription in large letters appears the word "Lincoln."

Thomas Lincoln's second wife, and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln, sleeps beside him, but the only stone at the two graves is that mentioned above, and there is nothing to indicate that the wife lies near the husband, except the green mound adjoining. A faded little flag on the grave of Thomas Lincoln is evidence of the visit of old soldiers on Memorial day, when the graves of dead comrades and friends are brightened by loving tributes of beautiful flowers, a flag being an added tribute in the case of dead comrades, and while Thomas Lincoln was not a soldier, the flag was placed on his grave as a mark of respect and honor for his distinguished son.

Shows Ravages of Time.

The monument shows signs of the ravages of time, although it has been erected only about sixteen years. The base of the marble shaft is becoming roughened by exposure to the elements, and a number of small openings appear in various places. It is also becoming black, probably from mildew. A peculiarity is noted in the way the shaft has been placed. The bodies of Thomas Lincoln and wife are laid east and west, and the inscription would naturally be placed so as to front the way they lay, that is, it should front east, but it fronts west, or is placed on the rear side of the shaft. Whether this was done by design, or accident, could not be learned.

The shaft is the most conspicuous monument in the cemetery, although there are many much finer ones; but it is taller than any other and can be seen a much greater distance. The martyred President's father and stepmother lie buried in Gordon Cemetery, and it is the most famous cemetery in this entire section as a result, and it is visited by many tourists, and is an object of never-falling interest to the people of this locality, and is a popular subject for post cards.

It is said that the grave was unmarked until Robert T. Lincoln of Chicago, only surviving son of Abraham Lincoln, interested himself in the matter, and that he contributed most of the money necessary for purchasing the placing the shaft, and that the remainder was paid by popular subscription.

One Flower on Grave.

The shaft leans a little to the south, but this is hardly noticeable. A peonie grows on the grave, but this is the only flower that could be found. The cemetery is an unpretentious one, but is well kept, and the Lincoln shaft is in a commanding position, being at the highest point, and can be seen from all directions.

Thomas Lincoln lived about two and a quarter miles northeast of the cemetery, owning at one time eighty acres of land in Coles County. Abraham Lincoln owned forty acres adjoining his father's land on the east, the three forties lying side by side. About the year 1845 Abraham Lincoln made the now famous contract with John J. Hall, by the terms of which Mr. Hall was to care for and maintain Thomas Lincoln and wife for the remainder of their natural lives, in return for which service Abraham Lincoln was to convey to John J. Hall at the death of his father andstepmother the east forty acres owned by Abraham Lincoln. For some unaccountable reason it seems the deed was never made, although Mr. Hall complied with his contract; or if the deed was made by Abraham Lincoln it was lost or misplaced by John J. Hall, for it was never placed on record and could not be found among his papers after his death.

Title Quieted by Suit.

John J. Hall died about five years ago, leaving five heirs, and a suit for partition was started by some of them for the purpose of dividing 196 acres of land which he owned at the time of his death. This partition suit led to discovery of the fact that no deed to forty acres of this land was on record, the title being defective to the forty which had formerly belonged to Abraham Lincoln and which John J. Hall had held in peaceful and undisturbed possession a period of forty to fifty years. The partition suit was compromised and the heirs divided the property amicably out of court, but another suit, Phoenixlike, rose from its ashes, the second suit being brought by heirs of John J. Hall against Robert T. Lincoln of Chicago for the purpose of removing the cloud from the title, as the records failed to show that Abraham Lincoln had ever done more than execute a contract to deed the forty acres involved to John J. Hall. Robert T. Lincoln told the heirs pleasantly, when called on for a quit claim deed, that he would not make such a conveyance, but that if suit was brought he would not contest it, and he did not, and offered no objections, legal or otherwise, when a decree was obtained declaring the title to be in the heirs of John J. Hall. Robert T. Lincoln was sued as the only surviving heir of Abraham Lincoln. "Get a decree," advised Robert T. Lincoln, "and hold the land against all the world."

Owns Site of Cabin.

The land on which the Lincoln cabin stood is now owned by Mrs. Harriet Martin, wife of Postmaster John Martin. Mrs. Martin was a daughter of John J. Hall. Mrs. Martin owns eighteen acres of the old Lincoln farm, six of which are a part of the Abraham Lincoln forty, and twelve, a part of one of the forties owned by Thomas Lincoln. Will Hall, a son of John J. Hall, owns the remainder of the Thomas Lincoln land. Squire Hall is a son of John J. Hall. The land is worth about $150 an acre, and is among the best in this portion of Coles County.

The "old Lincoln cabin" was sold for $1,000 and was taken to the World's Fair at Chicago, in 1893 and it is thought was afterward taken to Springfield, but people about Janesville were not positive as to the disposition of the famous building after it was moved to Chicago.

Not Home of Abraham.

Abraham Lincoln never lived on this farm, according to old residents of this locality, but occasionally visited his father and stepmother there when on his way to Charleston to hold court, when "riding the circuit." A few of the oldest residents knew Thomas Lincoln, and have seen or were slightly acquainted with the future President, when he visited here. Some of them, among whom is George W. Wallace, heard the memorable debate between Lincoln and Douglas at Charleston, Sept. 18, 1858.

This debate was held at the Fair Grounds in Charleston, and the spot on which it was held was marked by a committee a few days ago.

It is believed the Lincoln land is now especially valuable as it probably contains oil, and it is known to have rich coal deposits, as a vein nine feet in thickness was discovered not long since when prospectors bored for oil. Gas was discovered and it is thought some oil might be obtained but it is doubtful if the quantity would be sufficient to justify sinking a well, although the land is in twelve miles of the Casey oil field. It is but a few weeks since oil men from Casey were in this locality trying to secure leases on these and other lands in this vicinity, and a total of 500 to 800 acres of land about here have been leased within comparatively short time.

Mattoon, Ill.

AN HISTORICAL SPOT.

The Editors Make an Overland Tour In the Interest of Our Readers.

Sunday the editors of this paper took a trip that was a trip, driving from Greenup via Toledo to Trilla, where the M. E. church was dedicated, thence to the grave of Thos. Lincoln via Janesville thence home, stopping at the farm of John Hall.

The church dedication at Trilla was attended by over five hundred people, the building being packed. The church is located in the north-west part of the little town, is frame, of plain exterior, and nicely finished within. The dedication sermon was preached by Presiding Elder Robert Stevens, and he was assisted in the services by the circuit preacher, Rev H. N. McGowan. Now, this last named minister has ideas of his own and had an original way of celebrating the occasion of his flock building him a new church. On Thursday of last week he very quitely and unbeknown to the people of the berg took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Daisy Fox, a beautiful and popular young lady, a ward of 'Squire McPherson. The presence of the bride and groom at the dedication services afforded all their friends an opportunity of meeting them and expressing their well wishes.

Trilla is a better town than our tourists expected to find, and is in keeping with the progress of our country. Around the church building were 87 carriages and only 1 wagon, which may be considered a pretty good indication of prosperity. The Cumberland Presbyterians have a beautiful little church edifice at Trilla.

The grave of the father of Abraham Lincoln is north-east of Janesville and south-west of Farmington, about an equal distance between the two towns, on a road running east and west. The burying ground is known as the Gorden cemetery, has a beautiful location but is not well kept and is in close proximity with the Shiloh Cumberland church. On reaching this historical spot we learned a mournful incident.

Early that morning while the dew was still sparkling on the bug-eaten corn and the belated cocks stentorious voice had not yet ceased to chronicle the approach of old Sol to make the world resplendent with his glory for another day, a team of chargers might have been seen speeding away from a desolate city to the secluded forests. Drawn by these steeds was a chariot of modern end-spring variety in which were seated three sad-eyed chivalrymen to whom the world seemed proven a sad delusion, a wild hysterical, unmerciful farce. Away they sped, the horses gait as swift and reckless as the drivers hearts were sad and pained, until with bated breath they drew rein at the little country grave-yard. And here they wept. Here midst the silent slabs that marked the graves of the county's pioneers they sobbed great sobs and moaned and sobbed and moaned again. Oh! Charleston! Oh! Normal! Charleston! Normal! Shades of Altgeld's whiskers what a touching scene! And they tore their hair and wept, and offered oathes at some St. Louis man named Parker. And they shed hot tears that rippled down as clear as the crystal waters of the Ambraw until the golden rod happily raised its head and whispered to the jimpson weed, "The

This committee of Mattoon mourners sent forth to do homage to the occasion of the normal going to Charleston, was composed of Messrs. C. G. Peck, editor of the Mattoon Gazette, Emery Andrews, one of the rising attorneys of that place, and A. B. Crayeraft, photographer, who took views of the Lincoln monument and other important points. They seemed to have learned of the coming of THE PRESS tourists, and beat a hasty retreat before our arrival.

The grave of Thomas Lincoln was left unmarked from the time of his death in 1851 until 1880. After Abraham Lincoln was elected president he visited his father's grave and left word to have estimates sent him of the cost of a tombstone, but the war coming on it was never attended to. Thus rested the ashes of the pioneer, almost forgotten in the excitement of the times, until

The Press

George B. Balch, a local poet of much talent, wrote the following poem on "The Grave of the Father of Abraham Lincoln:"

In a low sweet vale by a murmuring rill,
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping;
Where the cold marble shafts, so lonely and still,
In silence their vigils are keeping.

On their sad lonely faces are words of fame,
But none of them speak of his glory;
When the pioneer died, his name and his age,
No monument whispered the story.

No myrtle, no ivy, nor hyacinth blows
O'er the lonely place where they laid him;
No cedar nor holly nor almond tree grows
Near the plebean's grave to shade him.

Sweet evergreens wave over many a grave.
O'er some bows the sad weeping willow;
But no willow trees bow, nor evergreens wave,
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

While some are inhumed with the honor of state
And placed beneath temples to moulder;
The grave of the father of Lincoln the great
Is known by a hillock and boulder.

Let him take his long sleep and quietly rest,
With naught to disturb or awake him;
When the angles shall come to gather the blest,
To ABRAHAM's bosom they'll take him.

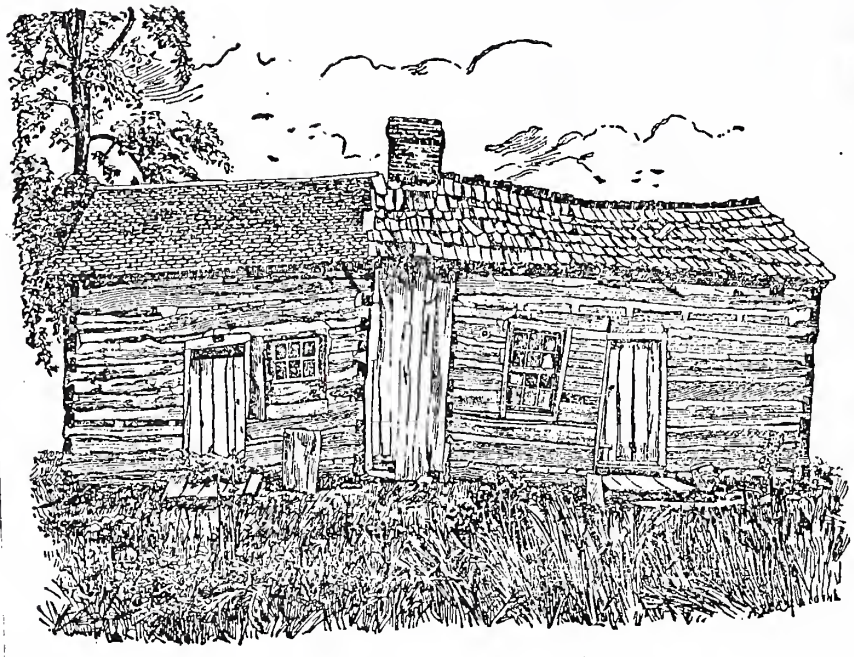
These verses above were published in Lippincott's Magazines and other papers and a copy sent to Robert Lincoln who offered to pay the expenses of a monument for his granfather's grave, but in the meantime some funds had been raised in Mattoon, and when the draft was made on Robert it was for only $116. The monument is a plain Grecian obelisk of Italian marble, 9 feet, 8 inches in height, and by no means the finest in the grave-yard. It was placed where it now stands on the 7th day of May, 1880, 29 years after Father Lincoln's death. Thos. Lincoln's second wife sleeps by his side) Abraham's own mother was buried in Spencer county, Indiana) and she, too, deserves more than passing notice in the pages of history. Lincoln loved her as a mother, and it is said that he owed much of his great character and nobleness of soul to her training. She died in '69 and such was her fame that the whole surrounding country joined in the funeral procession. No stone marks her resting place—an unprotected mound is all that designates her tomb. Two miles south-east of the grave-yard is the old Lincoln farm on Goose Nest Prairie—so named in early days because the woods surrounding circled in the form of a goose nest—to which Thomas Lincoln moved from Macon county. Abraham Lincoln helped build the old log cabin here, but never lived with his parents in it, having started in life for himself before they moved to this place, but it was on this memorable ground that his father and step-mother spent their last days. The old log cabin was purchased by the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin association in 1891 at an enormous price, and was removed to Chicago as a speculation, and it has been said that in this it did not prove a success and that shortly after the close of the Worlds Fair the old cabin was consigned to a back alley as common rubbish, though this statement has been disputed.

We found the editor's old-time friend, John Hall, at home on the old Lincoln farm, and had much pleasure in renewing his acquaintance. He came to Illinois with the Lincoln family in 1830, when he was but a year old and after the death of Thomas Lincoln bought the old farm place of John D. Johnston, and has owned it since, Grandmother

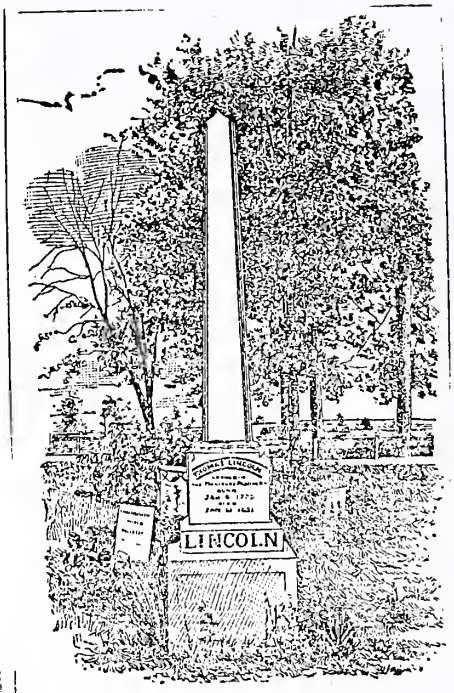
Greenup Sep 27 1895
Dear Cunningham
Yours N. H. Cunningham

A COMPLETE, ATTRACTIVE, EFFICIENT, UP-TO-DATE

Lincoln making her home with him until her death. Mr. Hall is a second-cousin of Abraham Lincoln on his father's side, and is also what might be termed a step-nephew by his mother's kin, so being doubly connected to the Lincoln family—his father, Squire Hall, was a son of Elizabeth Hanks, a sister of Nancy Hanks, President Lincoln's own mother; and his mother, Matilda Hall, had been a daughter of Thomas Lincoln's second wife by her first husband, Daniel Johnston, thus Abraham Lincoln's step-mother being John Hall's grandmother. Mr. Hall had eight brothers and sisters who share this distinction, namely, Nancy A., wife of Miles Moore, now living at Toledo, Ill.; Elizabeth Berry, Janesville, Ill.; Louisa, who married Morrill Fox, of Evansville, Ind., and is now a widow; Alfred Hall, Toledo, Ill.; Joseph Hall, deceased; Amanda, who married Robert Brown and lives in Missouri; Rachael and Harriet, twins, one living in California and one in Coles county.



THE OLD LINCOLN LOG CABIN.



THOMAS LINCOLN'S GRAVE.

Besides the sale of the cabin Mr. Hall sold for memorial purposes an acre of land surrounding the cabin and also the relics he had, thinking the sale to the association assured him of the safe keeping of them even after his death. In transfering these articles to the company he made the following interesting written statement:

In order that the history of the log cabin and its contents may be preserved I desire to say this:

That my mother was a step sister of Abraham Lincoln and that Grandmother Lincoln, my mother and myself, I being a child, rode in the wagon which brought the Lincoln family from Spencer county, Indiana, to Illinois; that Abraham Lincoln drove the ox team which drew the wagon; that the ox yokes which I send you are the ones which were on the oxen and they are the ones used in hauling the logs of which this cabin is composed; that this cabin was built by Abraham Lincoln and his father, Thomas Lincoln.

That the fence rails are the rails made by the Lincolns.

That the bureau is the one which Thomas Lincoln brought with him to Indiana (having belonged to Sarah Johnston before he married her) from Kentucky and from Indiana to Illinois, and that Abraham Lincoln used to keep his books in one of the drawers of this bureau.

That this spinning wheel was the one used

by Abraham Lincoln's mother and by his stepmother; that Abraham Lincoln when a boy used to reel the yarn which was spun from this wheel, and that his clothes were made from the yarn spun thereon.

That this bible was the family bible of Thomas Lincoln and it contained the family record which was cut out without my consent and that the leaves cut out belonged to me and I transfer it to you with the power to recover the leaves above mentioned and restore them to the bible where they rightfully belong.

That this dictionary is the one used by Abraham Lincoln in learning to spell and in getting knowledge of the meaning of words.

That this grindstone was made by Thomas Lincoln from a bowlder trimmed down and was originally about four feet in diameter Abraham Lincoln turned the grindstone while his father sharpened the ax which I send you.

That this clock was the one that Abraham Lincoln could hear tick while he would study by the firelight and that the bedstead is the one that both Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Lincoln died on and on which Abraham Lincoln has slept.

That Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln lies buried in the neighboring graveyard to where the cabin stood. After the death of Thomas Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln conveyed the land on which the cabin stood to John D. Johnston; that the deed you have is all in Abraham Lincoln's handwriting and John D. Johnston conveyed the cabin to me and I lived in it until about one year ago. The cabin you have is the identical cabin.

The page from the bible containing the family record, the only record of the genealogy of the Lincoln family kept at that time, incomplete though it was, is given in full below:

Thomas Lincoln was born January 6, 1778, and was married June 6, 1806, to Nancy Hanks, who was born February 5, 1784.

Sarah Lincoln, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, was born February 20, 1807.

Abraham Lincoln, son of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, was born February 12, 1809.

Sarah Bush first married to Daniel Johnston and afterwards second wife of Thomas Lincoln, was born December 13, 1778.

John D. Johnston, son of Daniel and Sarah Johnston, was born May 10, 1810, and married to Mary Baker, October 12, 1834, who was born July 22, 1816.

Mr. Hall speaks of Thos. Lincoln as one of the best men that ever lived, a sturdy, honest, God-fearing man, whom all the neighbors respected and turned to in time of trouble, and tells as a trait in his religious character how he would work hard all week, then walk to Charleston, a distance of 12 miles, on Saturday evening that he might hear the gospel preached on Sunday.

No photograph or likeness was ever taken of Thos. Lincoln, but the pioneers remember him as a plain, broad shouldered man, scarcely as tall as his son. His greatest happiness seemed to consist in contentment. He had little pride in anything, but it is reasonable to suppose that he was happy in knowing before his death that his son was at that time one of our state's greatest men. It could not be said that Thos. Lincoln never accomplished much in this life for if he had done nothing else than raise Abraham Lincoln it were enough to immortalize his name.

The cut of the Lincoln log cabin, which we are enabled to present to our readers through the kindness of H. B. Glassco, of the Charleston Plaindealer, is from a photograph taken prior to the removal of the building to Chicago. The house faced the east, and the tree which is seen in the picture still stands to mark the place around which clusters so many recollections of memorable scenes and strange associations. The shingles on the south room of the cabin were put on by John Hall after the property came into his hands. The remainder of the roof is composed of the original rough three-foot clabboards put on by the Lincolns

The Crops.

There has been much discussion about the corn crop Those having bottom land who were not troubled by bugs and worms say the crop was never better while those on the upland report from their standpoint. Some say they absolutely raised nothing—no kind of crops. While all kinds of estimates are being made and while we have examined in person some fields and made general inquiries we are of the opinion that we will have two-thirds of a corn crop and from one-sixth to one-third of the last years crop of oats and grass. Wheat is very light. Last year a large quantity of wheat was shipped to the cities but this year it will all or nearly all be needed for home market. Mr. Starger, the miller in Toledo, bought all that came to his mill; being 10 000 bushel

We don't think there was over a third of last years crop Under the circumstances it behooves the farmer to save everything—straw of all kinds, especially wheat and rye straw. Every blade of corn ought to be saved either by cutting it all up and shocking it or by fodder pulling as we did in olden times

How it all happened: The dry weather prevailed, the chinch bugs came early and stayed late and the hessian fly was a terrible pest. These make their home in the stalk of the wheat and were wonderfully disasterous, being invisible unless you open the stalk. The grub worm which eats off the roots of the corn and grass was also very disasterous and then there was a little spiral worm which commenced at the top and worked its way inside of the stalk to the root. Many hills of corn look green yet where every hill around it is as dry as it ought to be in November. Here you find shriveled ears that will barely make good bran Hence our advice to save every blade and stalk that can be utilized.

Lincoln's Birth.

"About 10 or 15 years ago a story was put in circulation that President Lincoln was an illegitimate child. It was stated that his father's name was Abraham Inlow, and not Thomas Lincoln. A Mr. Christopher Graham, in 1882, of Louisville, Ky., aged 98 years, made a sworn statement about the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, in many particulars correct, but not in all. I am an own cousin of Nancy Hanks, the wife of Thomas Lincoln; we were both residents of Kentucky. Her parents resided in Mercer county, and I was a resident of Hardin county. My uncle, Joseph Hanks, was a resident of Elizabethtown, the county seat of Hardin county, and engaged for a time in cabinet making. It was at Uncle Joseph's house that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks first met each other. Thomas, at the time, was learning the cabinet making trade with uncle. Thomas and Nancy were lawfully married by Alex McDougal, a Baptist preacher, in 1806; I can not recall the day or month of the year. The wedding took place at McDougal's house, which was eight or ten miles southeast of Elizabethtown, in Hardin, now La Rue county. At the time I was 7 years old and was living with my uncle, Thomas Sparrow, who had taken me to raise. The newly married couple stayed all night at our house the day of their marriage. Thos. Lincoln gave a $10 bond before he got his marriage license, which he obtained at the county seat. The name of the circuit clerk from whom Lincoln received his license was Benjamin Helms. Thomas Lincoln was aged 27 years and Nancy Hanks was in her 25th year when they were married. Among those present at the ceremony was a daughter of McDougal's, to whom I wrote and got a statement at the time the report was circulated that Abe was an illegitimate child, in which she declares that Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln were married according to law, on the south fork of Nolin creek, Hardin county, Kentucky, in 1806. This statement I sent to Robert Lincoln, Abe's son. I cannot now recall the lady's maiden name. Abe Lincoln was born on a small tributary of Rolling Fork river, called Knob creek, the same county, in 1809, three years after Thomas and Nancy were married."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FATHER AND MOTHER

THOMAS LINCOLN moved about with his mother from one country place in Kentucky to another. He was brought up a "wandering laboring boy," with no chance to get an education or any property. He was not enterprising or industrious, as his son proved to be. He hired out as a farm hand and managed to learn the trade of a carpenter and cabinetmaker. He was an honest, good-natured man, often imposed upon, but he became, when aroused, a "formidable adversary." "He was above the medium height, with a powerful frame, and had a wide local reputation as a wrestler."

He lived and learned his trade with a man named Berry, the guardian of an orphaned niece, Nancy Hanks. "Nancy was above the ordinary height, weighed about one hundred and thirty pounds, was slenderly built and had much the appearance of one inclined to consumption. Her skin was dark; hair dark brown; eyes gray and small; forehead prominent; face sharp and angular, with a marked expression of melancholy which fixed itself in the memory of every one who ever knew her. Though her life was seemingly beclouded by a spirit of sadness, she was in disposition amiable and generally cheerful."

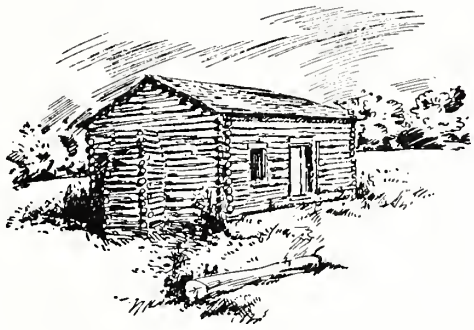
Nancy was in her twenty-third year when she was married to Thomas Lincoln, June 12, 1806, by Jesse Head, a neighboring local preacher of the Methodist Church.

Dennis Hanks, a cousin of Nancy's, who afterwards became a member of Thomas Lincoln's family, once told of the early married life of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, at Elizabethtown, Kentucky:

"When Nancy married Tom he was workin' in a . penter shop. It wasn't Tom's fault he couldn't make a livin' by his trade. Thar was sca'cely any money in that kentry. Every man had to do his own tinkerin', an' keep everlastin'ly at it to get enough to eat. So Tom tuk up some land. It was mighty ornery land, but it was the best Tom could git when he hadn't much to trade for it. . . .

"Tom thought a heap o' Nancy, an' he was as good to her as he knowed how. He didn't drink or swear or play cyards or fight, an' them was drinkin', cussin', quarrelsome days. Tom was popylar, an' he could lick a bully if he had to. He just couldn't git ahead, somehow."

Thomas and Nancy Lincoln removed from Elizabethtown, after the birth of their first child, Sarah, to Rock Spring Farm on Nolen Creek near Hodgensville, Kentucky. Here Abraham Lincoln was born in the little log cabin, which illustrations have made familiar, on the twelfth day of February, 1809.



The little log cabin which illustrations have made familiar

THE DEATH OF LINCOLN'S FATHER

BEING elected to Congress did not seem to make Thomas Lincoln think any better of his son's abilities or attainments. While in Washington Abraham sent "Billy" Greene, his fellow-clerk at Offutt's, to call on his father who was still living in a hovel at Goose Nest Prairie in Coles County, Illinois. The old man was still critical of his son's course in life, and said:

"I s'pose Abe's still a-foolin' hisself with eddication. I tried to stop it, but he's got that fool *idee* in his head, an' it can't be got out."

Thomas Lincoln was taken with his last illness two years after Greene's visit. Abraham, unable then to go to see his father, wrote to the family:

I sincerely hope Father may yet recover his health. Tell him to confide in our great and merciful Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads, and He will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in Him.

It deepens the pathos of this situation to remember that the son had to write this letter to his stepbrother, John Johnston, to have it read to his dying father, as the old man could not even read his own child's writing. Thomas died in 1851, at the age of 73, and, like Abraham's own mother, "never knew" his son's honor, with which he was to crown the name of their humble family.

The father had hardly departed this life when the stepbrother, brought up with the same chance and surroundings that Abe had, showed his gain in good-for-nothingness, even as Abraham was growing in grandeur. The man was really lazy; he wanted to sell out and go to Missouri, disposing of the quarter-section of land Abe had bought with his first five-hundred-dollar lawyer's fee to provide for his good stepmother in her old age. Lincoln had to write the following letter to protect her from her own son:

DEAR BROTHER: Your letter of the 22nd is just received. Your proposal about selling the east forty acres of land is all that I want or could claim for *myself*, but I am not satisfied with it on *Mother's* account. I want her to have her living, and I feel that it is my duty, to some extent, to see that she is not wronged. She had a right of dower in the other two forties, but it seems she has already let you take that, hook and line. You propose to sell the rest for three hundred dollars, take one hundred away with you, and leave her two hundred at 8 per cent., making her the *enormous* sum of sixteen dollars a year! Now, if you are satisfied with treating her in that way, I am not. . . .

Yours, etc.,

A. LINCOLN.

Not a word of boasting or of reproach because he bought and gave her the whole one hundred and sixty acres in the first place, for that would have hurt his stepmother's kind old heart!

The house in which Thomas Lincoln died

FROM MILLS POINT TO THE BIG SANDY

CLAIMS TO BE LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE.

WHAT amounts to veritable sensation is Cumberland County's claim that Abraham Lincoln was born in that county, and her offer to furnish irrefutable proof of the fact.

As proof, county officials and citizens of the county produce court records that establish beyond doubt that Thomas Lincoln, father of Abe, was former official of Cumberland County; that he was constable; that he was land-owner; that he had engaged in litigation; that records filed in the court archives bear out irrefutable fact that Abe Lincoln first saw light of day in the fair hills and valleys of Cumberland County.

Backing up the challenge, citizens of Burkesville have had sign erected in court square of that city bearing this fact: "Where was Abe Lincoln born? When was he born? Thomas Lincoln was an official of this county in 1802-04. He took up a ninety-eight-acre tract of land here in 1804, and then another 200-acre tract in 1815. See Records in the Clerk's office."

Now, what do you think of that, Hodgenville? What are you going to do about it, Larue County? Is the record wrong, or is it correct?—(Georgetown Times.

DEFEND FATHER OF LINCOLN FROM POISON PENS

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 11.—[U. P.] —The Indiana Lincoln union rose today to defend Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, whose character it charges has been greatly maligned by historians.

In an exhaustive report, submitted by a committee on documentary reference and research, the union declared Thomas Lincoln bore all of the noble qualities for which his son, Abraham, became famous.

The father of Abraham Lincoln, the report stated, was not the vagrant, idle, pauper backwoodsman, which it alleged historians had recorded.

The committees report declared investigation had removed all stigma of illegitimacy from Abraham Lincoln. Records were cited to show that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married several years before Abraham's birth.

Refuting charges of illiteracy the report declared documents had been found which revealed his signature in good, legible English. Land grants, the report said, in several instances were made out to Thomas "Linkern," as the name was spelled.